

HALESOWEN CHRONICLE



Thursday, November 8, 2012

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Pudsey power

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Going postal

Postman Chris promises to deliver boxing title

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Pressure is building over battle on theatre

CAMPAIGNERS trying to save Dudley Hippodrome from the bulldozers have pleaded with officials to drop demolition plans saying they are hampering efforts to re-open the venue.

The Friends of Dudley Hippodrome group say potential contractors are being put off tabling quotes for renovation works with the threat of demolition hanging over the theatre.

Deputy council leader, Councillor Shaukat Ali said officials were prepared to help those companies who were wishing to tender for works.

But he reiterated a costed business plan was needed as the council maintains its position to redevelop the Castle Hill landmark.

Campaign leader Geoff Fitzpatrick, said the demolition order leaves the group in a "state of limbo" as they try to finish the plan.

"The problem we have got with the planning application is that people don't want to commit money when it could be demolished," he said. "We need the council to withdraw the planning application in the meantime while we do the business plan so that it no longer becomes an issue."

Council officers have now tightened the time limit for the full business plan saying it needs to be submitted in less than a month.

Kidnapper handed life

CHILD kidnapper Michael Jackson has started an indefinite sentence behind bars.

The 50-year-old is facing the rest of his life in jail for snatching a girl and a boy in separate attacks in Oldbury.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard his abduction of a boy aged 10 sparked public protests after his victim managed to escape. Judge Martin Walsh said yesterday: "It's impossible to imagine the terror experienced by those young children."

RESIDENTS ANGRY OVER GAS WORKS

by Adam Burling

ANGRY residents say work to replace gas mains in a Halesowen street is causing chaos and could leave them without a supply during the cold weather.

The work to replace 600 metres of gas mains in Broadway Avenue has been going on for a week but local people say they have been kept informed. The project is expected to be completed by December 13 and National Grid bosses insist they sent out notification letters to properties in the area.

They say the work could result in a "brief" disconnection of gas to properties but residents say they have been left in limbo.

Workmen have continued to dig up pavements in front of driveways this week, leaving residents struggling to park on their properties.

Retired Derek Lane, aged 70, has complained to National Grid fearing his driveway may need to be dug up.

He says he has been told his gas supply will be cut off during the day this week but he does not know exactly when.

The pavement has been dug up while the work is carried out.

Mr Lane, a retired operations manager at a sewage treatment firm, said: "The area is a complete mess and nobody seems to be co-ordinating it - there are piles of rubble everywhere.

Alternative

It is impossible to make contact with anyone in authority."

"I have got alternative heating but it could be difficult if people had no heating or cooking facilities for an extended time," he added.

National Grid spokesman Anthony Quarrell said: "This work is essential and will help ensure the local community continue to enjoy safe and reliable gas supplies for heating their properties and cooking.."

"Service pipes are also being replaced either with a new service pipe or the existing service pipe transferred to the new main.

"Replacing a service pipe involves a brief disconnection of gas supply to the affected property.

"We are inserting the new pipes into the old mains wherever possible, this technique means fewer large scale excavations are required. This means work can be carried out faster and with less disruption."

Craig in rap-tures at final spot



Rapper Craig Pinches has reached the area final of the Open Mic UK contest

A RAPPER is celebrating making it through to the area finals of Open Mic UK after being selected as a wild card entry.

Craig Pinches, aged 24, from Dudley, took part in the Birmingham auditions at the LG Arena.

The judges did not pick him to go through to the next round, but after returning home he received an email telling him he had been put through in a public vote. Craig, of Fens

Crescent, Brierley Hill, said: "I left Birmingham thinking it was the end but now I'm through to the area final, which is taking place in Bedford. I've been serious about rapping for the past year and a half and I really want to make a go of it."

Craig, who works as a painter, lists Eminem as a favourite but also enjoys music from 1950s soul to hip hop from the 90s.

The next round is on November 25.

Olympic star's gym may face site fight

BOSSES at Olympic star Kristian Thomas' gymnastics club face competition in their search for a new building.

Earls Gymnastics Club in Halesowen says it will look for funding to help pay for a centre of excellence. The old Sons of Rest building in Huntingtree Road has been earmarked as a possible site.

However, a campaign is up and running to reopen it for community use.

Campaigners say they have received positive feedback from Dudley Council but ward councillor Ken Turner, who is spearheading the Earls project to raise £500,000 for the move.

Councillor Turner is also hoping to set up a meeting with council chiefs to discuss possible locations.

Meanwhile, Councillor Donella Russell has led residents drawing up a business plan to try to secure the old Sons of Rest site's future.

The council declared it had no use for the building but residents say the site should be secured because of its history.

Councillor Russell said: "As far as I am concerned we have got a business plan together. I do not believe the gymnastics club is seriously interested in the land."

Club chairman John Caulwell said there were "no concrete plans on the table" but the Sons of Rest building was "one of many options".

Town centre gym closes

A WOMEN'S gym in Dudley town centre has closed down after tabling losses of £3,000 a month amid falling membership numbers.

The Slimline Ladies gym in Castle Street, has shut to the shock of traders and members.

Four people have been made redundant.

Membership had once topped 500 but had fallen to 200 in recent months, according to bosses.

Gym owner Hugh McKenzie, who has been charge for two years, said closure was the only option.

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Hospital apology over cancer news

HOSPITAL chiefs have apologised to a Black Country man after the news that his mother was dying from cancer was broken to her while she was on her own.

Smethwick-born Valerie Harrison, aged 67, of Guildford Close, Kidderminster, thought that she had only a small tumour on one ovary.

But, after her family had gone home for the night, a consultant gynaecologist at Worcestershire

Royal Hospital broke the news that she had a mass of tumours affecting other abdominal organs, which could not be operated on.

Mrs Harrison, mother of three, grandmother of 11 and a school cleaner for many years, died on September 12, just over a month after the diagnosis. Her son, Shaun Harrison, aged 45, of Dawes Avenue, West Bromwich, said: "The consultant told her she had a large mass on

her left ovary and it had gone on her liver, bowel, bladder and stomach. She said the cancer was everywhere and there was nothing they could do. My mother was on her own and it was extremely distressing for her, especially as she believed she had been told she had a small tumour on her right ovary."

In a letter, Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust denies a claim that Mrs Harrison and her

husband of 50 years, Anthony, aged 68, were told by a gynaecologist at Kidderminster Hospital on August 7 that she had only a small tumour on her right ovary.

But chief medical officer Mark Wake says in the letter that the consultant who eventually told her the extent of her cancer at Worcester Royal Hospital two days later wanted to apologise for breaking the news without family present.

Prison for driver in 117mph pursuit

A DUDLEY man who took his mother's car to transport cannabis ended up leading the police on a 117mph chase down the hard shoulder of the M42, a court heard.

Miguel Browne turned into a dead end lane after speeding through Knowle, and reversed into the police car.

Browne, aged 26, of Marston Road, Russells Hall, Dudley, was jailed for six months after pleading guilty at Warwick Crown Court to aggravated vehicle taking, dangerous driving and possessing cannabis with intent to supply it.

Prosecutor Neil Bannister said Natalie Browne owned a Honda Civic, which her son, who had been banned from driving for 18 months, was not allowed to use.

But on February 2 police spotted it heading south along the M42 in front of them. Browne sped off and left the motorway at junction 5.

The officers arrested him, and in the boot of the Civic they found a bucket with 20 one-ounce bags of cannabis with a street value of £3,240.

Matthew Barnes, defending, said Browne had "grown up" since February.

Pudsey and Amy are big draws for stores

Pudsey, with owner Ashleigh Butler



The Pudsey queue at the Waterstones store in Merry Hill shopping centre

DUDLEY welcomed two celebrities one is the most famous dog in the country, who won over the nation with his dancing skills on Britain's Got Talent - the other is a glamourpuss from Essex known for her perfectly-manicured appearance.

But while these reality TV stars couldn't be more different, both attracted scores of fans when they appeared in the Black Country.

After wowing the crowds with his dancing skills, the first four-legged winner of talent show BGT is going to woo them with his writing - as he has published his own autobiography.

Pudsey along with owner Ashleigh Butler visited Merry Hill shopping centre in Brierley Hill to meet his adoring fans and sign copies of the book called Pudsey: My Autobiography.

Dozens of people had lined up at the Waterstones shop, in the shopping

centre to meet the six year old mongrel - border collie, bichon frise, Chinese crested cross - and his 17-year-old owner.

Pudsey sat next to Ashleigh whilst they signed copies of the book and greeted fans. The book which is written from Pudsey's point of view tells the story of his life before Britain's Got Talent and his training.

Ashleigh said: "It was really fun to do. We had to look back at his past and think about what it was like for him. It's great because all the animals in the book are real, and were part of our lives."

Adaptation

Pudsey is not shying away from the limelight as he is set to star in a Christmas film adaptation of David Walliams's book Mr Stink.

In between book signings and filming, the pair are now busily preparing for their Royal Variety Show appearance next month.

Ashleigh said: "Pudsey loves all the attention and loves getting his picture taken."

Of the Royal Variety Performance

she said: "I'm really nervous and excited. We have been busy rehearsing, and I just want to make it really special, and we don't want to let anyone down. People know what we can do now, so they will be expecting a lot."

Meanwhile glamorous reality TV star Amy Childs greeted dozens of fans in Dudley, when she launched her new perfume.

The TOWIE star greeted fans at the Burnt Tree Tesco. The qualified beautician shot to fame in the ITV Bafta award winning show in 2010, where she worked in a beauty salon and dated club promoter Kirk Norcross. She said: "It's fantastic to be in Dudley, I've never been here before, and it's lovely to see so many people waiting to see me."

Jenna Wilkins, aged 23, who was in the queue to meet the star said: "Me and my sister love her, and so I have come to get the perfume for my sister's Christmas present."

"I really like Amy because she is not like the others, she has a good business head."



TOWIE star Amy Childs

Meeting on flats issues

DUDLEY Council tenants who live in high rise properties can discuss issues relating to their estates at a meeting.

The council says it actively supports and encourages its tenants and leaseholders to become involved in the running of their high rise blocks. To ensure everyone has an opportunity to contribute a special group, the High Rise Living Forum, meets regularly. The next meeting is on November 13 at Saltwells Education Centre, Bowling Green Road, Dudley running from 7pm to 9pm.

Pets are rescued

TWO dogs and a budgie were rescued from a house in Gornal after an arson attack on a caravan in the drive.

The family fled the house after flames spread from the caravan in Glen Road, Upper Gornal, on Saturday night. Firefighters from Dudley rescued the pets.

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Pensions are facing big cuts

PENSION savers will see thousands shaved off their predicted future retirement pots from 2014 under plans to give them a more realistic idea of potential returns.

City regulator the Financial Services Authority will reduce the standard projection rates used to show possible future returns and the impact of charges for someone taking out a product such as a personal pension or a life policy to reduce the possibility of consumers being given a "false impression" of the size of their potential cash pots.

Firms will have a year to implement the new projection rates, which come into force in April 2014.

Under the current system, firms are required to use projection rates to show what returns an investor might receive, which are not a firm guarantee but give a flavour of what people might gain from their investment.

They are meant to give three different rates of return and revise them down if a product appears unlikely to achieve this.

But the FSA has been consulting on plans to strengthen these rules after finding that providers often fail to comply.

U-turn over road closer

THE scrapping of a one-way system in Dudley has moved a step closer after a transport chief officially approved the plans.

Dudley Council agreed earlier this year to make Parkway Road two-way again after a campaign from residents who said the new system was causing chaos.

The proposals have now been given the go-ahead by Councillor Judy Foster. The changes are expected to be made in the coming weeks, with the work costing £9,000. More than 400 residents signed a petition and complained.

Help at wine bar

A KIDDERMINSTER wine bar is offering local traders a chance to show off their services for free.

Mark Carter, aged 38, is the owner of Carters wine bar in Oxford Street and believes by joining forces people can help each other.

He said, we are hoping people will take up the offer of an opportunity to stage an event here. Call 01562 750599.

Son's tribute to an inspirational teacher

HAILED as a pillar of the community Betty Yates was an inspirational teacher who went the extra mile for her pupils.

The much-loved 77-year-old was well-known in the close-knit town of Bewdley and further afield having taught in schools in Kidderminster and Streetly. Her kindness was so appreciated, many described her as a second mom.

But just days after returning from spending a happy Christmas with her family she was found brutally murdered in her idyllic and secluded riverside cottage.

Her sudden and violent death – she was found stabbed in the neck and had been

beaten with a stick – sent shockwaves through the community.

Mourners turned out in their droves to pay tribute by laying flowers on a bridge near her riverside cottage. They included dozens of former pupils and friends who gathered for a candlelight vigil.

Some wept openly as candles were lit in memory of the retired teacher, who had worked at St John C of E Middle School, in Brookhouse, Kidderminster, for many years before retiring in 1999.

Ex-pupil Verity Worthington, 29, of Kidderminster, was among those who paid tribute. "She was an inspiring teacher. She

went the extra mile and was really before her time," she said. Verity's cousin Charlotte Mayall, also 29, of Blakelaw, was in the same class. "She was an incredibly kind person and really loved the children she taught. I remember all of the extra-curricular things she used to teach us," she said.

Mrs Yates was a member of the Wyre Forest University of the Third Age, an active group for older people. The widow was also an enthusiastic swimmer, taking part in regular lessons. Hundreds turned out to pay tribute to her at a memorial service in Bewdley. As the community struggled to come to terms with her death, police

launched a murder investigation on January 4 – the day her body was found at the bottom of the stairs at her home, off Dowles Road. Emotional appeals were made by Mrs Yates son David Yates and daughter Hazel Costello in the wake of her murder.

They paid tribute to her, with David describing his mother at the heart of the community in Bewdley. He said his parents searched for many years to find their dream home. Since his father's death, he said she had buried herself because she missed him. She went back to school to help listen to children read. "Many people have described her as a second mum," he said.

NEWS in brief

Arts group facing more cash cuts

DUDLEY Performing Arts, which runs classes for youngsters across the borough, is facing further funding cuts which could pull the plug on public events in the future.

Last year cuts forced DPA to cancel two major music festivals, which traditionally attracted up to 5,000 people each.

The latest cuts by Dudley Council will see it lose £178,000 of its funding in 2013/14. Councillor Tim Crumpton said it stemmed from cuts the authority had to make.

Model car club is now racing along

A MODEL car club is enjoying a surge in popularity with more than 80 members from across the region turning out for regular races.

Kidderminster Model Car Club on the A451 Stourport Road, and is the venue for both regional and national events.

Club members generally create their own cars from kits to ensure they meet the needed specifications. Some are worth hundreds of pounds.

They then race them on the club's astro turf track.

400 take part in survey on gallery

MORE than 400 people took part in a consultation event run by campaigners fighting plans to move Kidderminster Library's gallery and piano.

The Friends of Kidderminster Library Gallery took to the streets to gather the views of residents. It was part of their bid to persuade Worcestershire County Council to rethink its decision on the gallery.

£2.3m sports hall plans are backed

PROPOSALS for a £2.3 million sports hall and outdoor pitch at a Dudley school have been backed, despite residents' concerns over noise.

Neighbours of Holly Hall Academy raised fears of flooding close to homes and matches played until 10pm. The application was approved subject to conditions.

Talk from rector

THE Rev Richard Newton will talk to Hagley branch of the Mothers' Union at 2.30pm on November 15 at 83 Lodge Crescent, Hagley.

Drifter Farrow is guilty of murdering pensioner Betty

A HOMELESS drifter has been found guilty of murdering retired teacher Betty Yates who was stabbed to death at her secluded Bewdley home.

Stephen Farrow, aged 48, stabbed Betty Yates in the head and neck and beat her with her own walking stick.

He then tidied up at her Riverscroft cottage, which overlooks the River Severn, and drew the blinds before leaving her lying at the foot of the pool of blood.

The 77-year-old was only discovered when friends became concerned after she did not turn up for a walking group in the town.

Farrow, who had fished in the river near Mrs Yates's home a number of times and knew the area well, had denied being anywhere near Bewdley when Mrs Yates died between January 2 and 4.

But a jury of eight men and four women at Bristol Crown Court found him guilty of murder following 11 hours of deliberation after a four-week trial.

Farrow was also found guilty of murdering the Rev John Suddards, aged 59, who was found stabbed to death in his vicarage in Thornbury, South Gloucestershire.

He admitted the vicar's manslaughter but denied murder on the grounds of diminished responsibility due to mental health problems including him being diagnosed as a psychopath.

The court previously heard he stabbed the vicar in the chest, shoulder and neck and then carefully positioned a bible, painting of Jesus and mirror around him.

He then spent the night in the vicarage watching DVDs and drinking beer with the body yards away.

Farrow also admitted burglary at a house in Thornbury where a note was left

by Adam Burling

saying "I hate God". Prosecutor Mr Michael Fitton previously told the trial that a footprint on an exercise mat in Mrs Yates's house matched Farrow's boots, while DNA on the back of the pensioner's hand represented a one in a billion match to his.

A man matching Farrow's description was described as looking like he was "on a mission" walking away from Mrs Yates's home on the day she died.

Attacked

Mrs Yates, who had been a teacher in Kidderminster and Streetly, was believed to have been attacked from behind.

Mr Fitton told the court a pillow had been placed under her head while she lay on the ground, and the bloodied walking stick that was used to hit her had been placed back in a cylinder near the door with some others.

The jury had been asked to decide whether Farrow would have known what he was doing when he launched the attack and whether he knew the difference between right and wrong.

They had earlier heard that he had demonstrated many of the characteristics of a psychopath. When he was a child he had set fire to a church and had shot dead a swan.

Details of his violent and disturbed

Families glad killer is jailed

The daughter and son of Betty Yates, Hazel Costello and David Yates, read a joint statement outside Bristol Crown Court, after Stephen Farrow was found guilty

THE families of the victims of the psychopath who murdered two including grandmother Betty Yates have spoken of their relief that he is "off the streets" as the true extent of his violent past was revealed.

Questions have been raised about why homeless Stephen Farrow was allowed to be free to plan and murder Mrs Yates and the Rev John Suddards. Farrow was told he would never be released from jail as he was convicted of the two murders.

The 48-year-old was found guilty of murdering 77-year-old Mrs Yates at her secluded cottage in Bewdley. He was also convicted of murdering Mr Suddards, 59, at his vicarage in Thornbury, South Gloucestershire.

Farrow is the son of David Yates, 51, said: "We should all be relieved and thankful that Stephen Farrow is off the streets. It is clear from his own words that had he not been caught he would have con-

tinued to kill others." Mr Suddards' sister Hilary Bosworth demanded action to ensure those with a troubled and violent past are monitored. She said the issue needs "serious consideration" in future, adding: "Do we, as a country, do enough to ensure psychopaths with a known history of violence and criminal offences, are not left roaming around at large ready to attack?"

Police welcomed the sentence handed to Farrow. Detective Chief Inspector Neil Jamieson, who led the West Mercia investigation, said it was "very rare" to see two life sentences handed down with no chance of parole.

But he said Farrow was a "very, very dangerous individual" who had "shown no remorse" for his actions.

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NEWS

**THE BEST
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A READER writes: "If convicts in British jails are allowed to vote, will they be able to vote for police commissioners?"

AND talking of jail, did we all notice in Downton Abbey (ITV) that Mr Bates was as fit as a flea in the exercise yard at York Prison but limped and used a walking stick when he was set free? Very dodgy.

WE may not think much of weather forecasters but consider this. Superstorm Sandy struck a population of 50 million Americans who had been given several days' warning. About 60 fatalities have been reported. In the days before weather forecasting, the Great Storm of November 1703 ripped across an unprepared England with a population of just five million. In the space of 24 hours it killed 8,000 people.

HOW computers work. I bought a pair of boots on eBay. The next day, I logged on to find that eBay had already selected items I might be interested in buying, namely three more pairs of boots. Computers don't understand that when you have bought a pair of boots, the last thing you are likely to want is another pair of boots. I was actually looking for a vegetable rack. Geeks are always talking about artificial intelligence, as though it is just around the corner. When they develop a computer program that can make the connection between boots and a vegetable rack, that will be the time to start worrying.

TWO developments on the burglary front deserve watching. The first is the Government announcing open season on burglars caught red-handed. Check the small print carefully, but the new guidelines seem to suggest we can whack them very hard indeed. The second development is the news this week that half of all burglars, including many with more than 12 convictions, are given fines or community service rather than jail. How long will it be before a householder batters a burglar to death and the dead man's family sue the judge for giving the burglar his liberty, and thus allowing him to carry on robbing, instead of locking him safely up in prison?

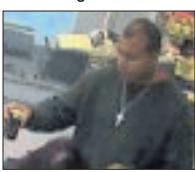
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Suspects sought after attempted bag snatch

A WOMAN in Dudley was kicked to the ground by attackers who tried to wrestle her handbag from her in broad daylight. Police have now released images of suspects from CCTV in Dudley town centre.



One of the suspects was wearing a dark coat



A suspect in a black top, with silver chain

Officers are hoping someone will recognise the men who targeted the 56-year-old woman as she walked along Stone Street. She was kicked to the ground from behind.

A man then attempted to grab her handbag but the woman fought him off and managed to hold onto it.

The suspects were later spotted on CCTV in Dudley town centre.

Chain

One of the men was wearing a black top and silver cross on a chain around his neck.

The other had a close cropped haircut and was wearing a dark coloured coat.

The victim suffered a minor injury to her leg in the incident which happened at 2.30pm on October 4.

De Nick Slym, of Dudley CID, said: "We want to hear from anyone who recognises either of the men in the CCTV images and can help with our investigation."

"This attempted robbery happened during the middle of the afternoon."

"There would have been people out and about in the area, and we would ask any witnesses to contact us." Anyone with information about the incident is asked to call Dudley CID on 101 or the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Choir will be hailing the heroes



Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Melvyn Mottram, with the Gentlemen Songsters Male Voice Choir members Pete Hawthorne, Bill Hart, Mike Green, Dennis Perkins, Jim Grainger, John Baker and John Bowen, set for the concert

A TOP male voice choir will be paying its own special tribute to the heroes of the armed forces with a concert in Dudley.

The Gentlemen Songsters Male Voice Choir will be performing their Festival of Remembrance at Dudley Town Hall on November 8.

It will feature a short service as well as songs by the Gentlemen Songsters and Maggie O'Hara, as well as music from Phoenix West Midlands brass band and laughs from Black Country comic Marlene.

The Mayor of Dudley Councillor Melvyn Mottram has also been invited to attend the show, which starts at 7.30pm. He said: "We always welcome any event like this to honour our armed forces heroes and the Festival of Remembrance is the perfect way to do that."

The choir which now has more than 70 members, is planning to donate money from the Festival of Remembrance to the Royal British Legion.

Tickets for the evening cost £8 and are available by calling the box office on 01384 812 812 or 01384 838863.

Staff are terrorised in armed store raid

MASKED raiders armed with a foot-long kitchen knife and a screwdriver terrorised staff at a village supermarket and threatened a group of heroes who tried to thwart them.

It is the latest in a series of robberies at branches of the Co-operative in the region.

Two robbers, wearing dark clothing and with their faces covered, struck at the Co-op Food store in Worcester Road, Hagley, on October 30 at about 7.25pm, and forced two staff to hand over about £2,000.

Several customers from the Station Inn, opposite the shop, went to help staff and it's believed they tried to stop the robbers from leaving by holding the door shut.

The raiders smashed glass in the door and threatened one of the good Samaritans with a knife before making their getaway in a black Nissan car which had been stolen about an hour earlier from Ettingshall Park, Wolverhampton.

Inquest adjourns

AN inquest on a woman who died after collapsing at her Dudley home has been adjourned after a cause of death could not be confirmed.

Christine Guest, aged 51, was found on the floor of her home in Laurel Road on October 28 and died in hospital.

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NEWS in brief

Two con their way into man's home
TWO would-be thieves conned their way into the house of an elderly man before rifling through his wardrobe and drawers.

The men called at the house in Wolverley, near Kidderminster, and claimed to be carrying out checks for the council.

After they had left, the victim saw his wardrobe had been opened. Fortunately nothing had been taken.

Both men are white, between 25 and 30, average build and around 5ft 6ins. Witnesses should call police.

Chimps getting up to their old clicks

DUDLEY Zoo keepers are using a clicking sound to help chimpanzees accept medical treatment.

They are working on a programme to help them cope better with basic medical procedures, such as injections or being treated with medicines.

Team leader Nicola Wright said: "We have started to train the chimps to present different parts of their body so that keepers, or the zoo's vet, can provide treatment."

Nursery raises cash for charity

CHILDREN and staff at a Halesowen nursery have been baking, decorating and face-painting for Cancer Research UK.

More than £400 was raised in a Princess and Superhero fancy dress day at The Green Nursery, Hayley Green, on October 31.

Cuts could make borough the pothole capital, warning

DUDLEY would become "the pothole capital of the Black Country" if plans to slash thousands of pounds from the roads budget go ahead, it was claimed during a heated council debate.

The borough council's cabinet was attacked over plans to make cuts of almost £22 million at a meeting last week. The Labour-controlled authority has revealed a three-year programme of savings which will see services ranging from road and street maintenance to care for the elderly and youth services stripped back.

But transport chief Councillor Patrick Harley, hit out at proposals to slash the budgets for road maintenance by more than £800,000.

Addressing the cabinet, he said: "Withdrawing this funding will make Dudley the pothole capital of the Black Country. "It will cost taxpayers more because the bill for filling in potholes will be rising."

Councillor Tim Wright also criticised the plans, along with proposals to reduce the street cleaning, saying: "We've seen new building in Dudley like we've never seen before."

Attractive

"But will people continue to invest in Dudley when they can't get from A to B because of the potholes and if the borough isn't attractive because green care has been cutback?"

Transport chief Judy Foster defended the plans saying a plan would be in place to ensure roads most at risk of deterioration would be repaired as a priority.

"We are not going to take anything out of the potholes budget. They will continue to be addressed," she added.

The council says it needs to make savings of £10.7m in 2013 to 2014, £4.8m the following year and £6.3m in 2015 to 2016.

A call for council tax to be frozen for another year was made by Councillor Les Jones.

'Lottery' on meals costs

HOSPITAL patients face a postcode lottery when it comes to how much money is spent on their daily meals, new NHS figures reveal.

The amount varies widely across the region from £7.45 in Sandwell and West Birmingham to £13.89 in Mid-Staffordshire. Hospital trusts say they aim to provide healthy and nutritious meals and offer a variety of choice regardless of how much is spent on food.

The amount spent per meal in 2011/12 in Wolverhampton was £8.72 while £10.14 was spent in Walsall, £12.55 in Worcester-shire and £12.90 in Dudley.

Paula Clark, chief executive for Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, which runs Russells Hall Hospital, said: "The trust takes the nutrition of our patients very seriously and we are committed to providing a healthy menu for our patients." At Stafford and Cannock Chase hospitals, there is a winter and summer menu as well as eight therapeutic diet menus. The lunch menu includes options such as cod in parsley sauce, Lancashire hot pot, cheese and tomato pasta and sweet and sour pork stir-fry as well as a choice of sandwiches.

Building has started at the site on Slideslow Drive, Bromsgrove. It is anticipated the building work will take more than a year to complete.

The court heard how the boxer punched and kicked the victim repeatedly after he had fallen to the floor and lay unconscious.

Sentencing Nightingale, Judge John Wait said he found Nightingale highly culpable. He said: "I am sure on the evidence that you as anyone else could see he was an injured man. His face 'bloodied, swaying, dazed and intoxicated.'

Mr Simon Stirling, defending, said Nightingale was remorseful.

Emergency site

WORK has started to provide a combined emergency services station in Worcester-shire.

Building has started at the site on Slideslow Drive, Bromsgrove.

It is anticipated the building work will take more than a year to complete.

Phantom performers ready



Front, Callum Roger as the Phantom and Mollie-Anne Riley as Christine, with back, Paige Butler, Alanis Edwards, Liam Oakley and Jamie Rushin

MORE than 60 young performers are putting the finishing touches to a production of classic musical The Phantom of the Opera being performed at a Black Country school.

Pupils at Ellowes Hall Sports College, in Gornal, have been rehearsing for the show since May and are now putting the finishing touches to the production.

It will run at the school, in Stickley Lane, from November 12 to 17.

All shows will begin at 7.30pm except for the Saturday performance which will be a matinee held from 2pm.

Show tickets available from the school's reception are priced £6 except Friday which is £8.

Music will be performed by members of the school's orchestra, ex-students, parents, music teachers from the Dudley area and students of the Birmingham Conservatoire.

More than £400 was raised in a Princess and Superhero fancy dress day at The Green Nursery, Hayley Green, on October 31.

Ex-boxer is jailed for killing man

A MAN from Tipton has been jailed for eight years after being found guilty of killing a father during a pub fight in the Black Country.

A jury convicted Peter Nightingale of the manslaughter of Darren Jones.

Nightingale, aged 43, was, however, acquitted of murder at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

Mr Jones, 42, a father of eight, was beaten to death by Nightingale at the Greets Green Social Club.

Jurors heard how trouble broke out at the club at around 8pm on February 26.

The prosecution said Nightingale used his "considerable skills" as a former professional fighter during two fights with Mr Jones.

The court heard how the boxer punched and kicked the victim repeatedly after he had fallen to the floor and lay unconscious.

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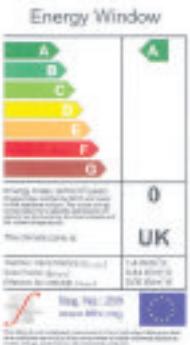
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NEWS

Litter picker is fined for putting rubbish in bins

A VOLUNTEER litter picker who earned several accolades for keeping a Dudley town centre tidy has been accused of dumping waste in street bins.

David Baker, aged 39, from Stourbridge, has been given a £75 fine and the threat of court action. He has accused Dudley Council of "bureaucracy gone mad" for branding him a fly-tipper.

Mr Baker used walk the streets of Stourbridge armed with bags from the council and a litter picker to clear rubbish.

Bosses stopped supplying bags 18 months ago, forcing him to use carrier bags to collect rubbish and put it in street litter bins.

But now officials claim he has dumped bags full of crisp packets, pizza boxes and other litter in the bins.

Mr Baker, of Coventry Street, Stourbridge, hit back at the council's actions calling the issue "bureaucracy gone mad".

"I think that it is completely outrageous that I should be fined for actually cleaning rubbish off the streets," said Mr Baker, who volunteers as part of the team working on the annual Stourbridge In Bloom entry.

"How can people who actually want to put rubbish in the bin be fined? To claim that what I put in the bin amounts to flytipping is crazy."

Environment boss Councillor Tracy Wood said: "Our enforcement officers issued a fixed penalty fine to Mr Baker in Stourbridge, after they found his domestic waste and letters in the litter bin on a number of occasions. However, we will be reviewing the fine and speaking to Mr Baker directly to discuss it."

Mr Baker said he may have put a couple of junk mail letters in the bin on his way out of the house on occasion but did not put waste from his home into the bins.

Village skittles evening

A SKITTLES evening will be held at Pensax Village Hall near Kidderminster on November 17 at 7pm. Tickets cost £6.50.

Mike's jungle journey



Councillor Melvyn Mottram, Mayor of Dudley, with Mike Crannage and Charlie, a macaw

Super-fit Dudley mayoral attendant Mike Crannage, who has raised thousands for charity, is planning his next daring adventure in a South American jungle.

The 53-year-old plans a gruelling 150-mile coast-to-coast race through the jungles of Costa Rica. Last year he ran 150 miles through the Sahara Desert, braving sweltering temperatures and towering sand dunes.

For his latest challenge, he will trek, run, climb, abseil and swim the

equivalent of almost six marathons through hazardous terrain. The former army man will have to complete the distance, from Quepos on the Pacific Coast to Tortuguero on the Caribbean Sea, in just 10 days. The money he raises from the challenge, on February 2 next year, will be donated to the Mayor of Dudley's charities - Diabetes UK, Stourbridge, Dudley and District Support Group and the Dudley Stroke Association.

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NEWS

Shops are caught selling booze to underage girls

Charity thanks support



One year on from the British Heart Foundation building fire – assistant manager Peter Stevens in the charity's current store

IT'S one year on since a severe blaze ripped through a charity furniture store in Kidderminster town centre – and battling bosses have thanked customers for their support during the past 12 months as they wait to return to their former premises.

Flames ripped through the British Heart Foundation's furniture and electrical shop in Market Street in a blaze which also gutted neighbouring furniture outlet Levines last October.

The devastating fire severely damaged the building and its stock.

While the charity was able to move into other premises in the

town earlier this year – bosses still hope they can return to their original site – if and when it is rebuilt.

Reflecting on the past year bosses said at one point they feared they would be without a Kidderminster branch.

But they said customers have been a great support and they urged them to keep donating.

Area manager Ron Humphreys admitted trade had been tough since the reopening of the store in Worcester Street in March because of its quieter location. But he also expressed heartfelt thanks to the donors and customers.

TWO stores in the same Dudley street, which sold alcohol to an underage girl, have been allowed to keep their drinks licences – but with conditions.

Priory Road Food and Wine and the Super Stop convenience store sold drink to a 16-year-old girl who was making test purchases for the borough's Trading Standards officers on August 15.

Dudley Council's licensing sub committee heard that, on another occasion, two police community support officers witnessed a disturbance outside Priory Road Food and Wine involving a member of staff with a knife confronting a gang. The committee also heard the staff member who served the under-age girl at the store gave a false name after the incident. Priory Road Food and Wine licence holders Theebalini Raguvanan and her husband Rasathurai said that in five years of running another store, they had never had any issues.

Principal trading standards officer Chris King told the sub committee, in a separate case, that the 16-year-old girl was sold alcohol at the Super Stop store, also in Priory Road, where the licence holder is Tilak Raj. Mr King also said on an earlier occasion an underage test purchase was refused at Super Stop. Both stores now have to ask anyone who appears to be under 25 to prove their age and produce CCTV of sales when requested by officials.

Seminars to give tax aid

THE Midlands office of national audit, tax and advisory firm Crowe Clark Whitehill is offering free tax update seminars in Walsall and at Shenstone, near Kidderminster.

They take place on November 16 at Calderfields Golf and Country Club, Walsall, and on November 30 at The Granary Hotel, Shenstone.

Both events start at 9.30am. More details are available by emailing miriam.sherwood@crowewc.co.uk or on 0121 543 1900.

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MEMORY LANE

Golden age of motoring – Thornhill Road, Streetly, in the 1950s, including Esso petrol pumps at the service station



A windswept heath with no housing in sight – pony power on the road to Streetly, Sutton Park, early 1900s



Streetly Railway Station, early 1900s, before it fell to the Beeching axe in the 1960s



Ammunition Cottages, Aldridge Road, Streetly, 1996

Roman roots for suburb that grew after the war

by Stuart Williams

STREETLY is named after Ryknield Street, a Roman road, the line of which can still be followed in Sutton Park.

The earliest written record of the name is an Anglo-Saxon charter dated 959, when an estate at Great Barr and Easton (Little Aston) was granted to Wulfhem.

In medieval times the district was still largely forest, part of the Earl of Warwick's Sutton Chase.

By the 1200s charcoal burners had cleared much of the forest and the land was left as heath and marshland.

Much of the area, then part of Great Barr Common, was enclosed and let as farms in 1795 by local landowners.

In August 1872 the building of a Walsall, Wolverhampton & Midland Junction Railway began. Absorbed by the Midland Railway in 1874, this became known as the Sutton Park line.

Local people opposed the new Midland Railway line's passing

through Sutton Park. After much argument and planning, the line opened on July 1 1879.

It had stations at Penns, Sutton Coldfield, Sutton Park, Streetly and Aldridge. Streetly Station was at the corner of Foley Road and Thornhill Road.

Jamboree

Between August 1 and 12 in 1957 Sutton Park hosted the Scout Movement's 'World Jubilee Jamboree', with special trains arriving from July 29.

The Jamboree was also open to the public. There was a special Sutton Park local steam-hauled service, with an hourly all-stations service between Birmingham New Street and Walsall, and an all-stations Sutton Park - Walsall - Dudley service every two hours.

Sadly, the line was one of those closed in the Dr Beeching era of massive railway cuts in 1965.

Development began around Streetly Lane and a church and

school were built in Foley Road in 1908. Until 1914 housing development was limited to the area between Thornhill Road and Chester Road, continuing from 1918 to 1939. Blackwood Road was cut through farmland in the 1920s.

Much of Streetly remained relatively rural even after 1945.

The Methodist Chapel in Blackwood Road, St Anne's Roman Catholic Church, the clinic and the library in Blackwood Road all date from the period 1960 to 1970, as does much of the housing.

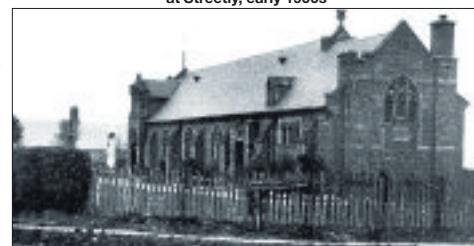
Streetly, for so long a sparsely populated rural area, has grown today into a residential suburb of some 21,000 inhabitants.

Prints of pictures in this feature and thousands more are available to purchase by special order from Walsall Local History Centre. For local and family history, drop into the centre in Essex Street, which is part of Walsall Council. Telephone 01922 721305.

For more information go online to www.walsall.gov.uk/localhistorycentre



Closest thing to a shopping centre 100 years ago – The Market, at Streetly, early 1900s



Place of worship – All Saints Church, Streetly, early 1900s



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NEWS

Charity shops paying out hundreds to stop raids

School's bid for change



Front, Sam Rowberry, left, aged 14, and Stephanie Whiting, 15, with fellow pupils from Holy Trinity International in Kidderminster

TIME is running out for a Kidderminster school to prove to the Government it deserves to change its status.

Holy Trinity International School, Birmingham Road, needs to show the local community considers it an "invaluable service" by December 7 if it is to become a free school

by September 2014. It follows a failed application last year, when the government department received around 500 questionnaires from residents but asked for a more detailed response.

The school is now pleading for parents to fill out its new questionnaire to join the 200 already received.

THIEVES are targeting charity shops in Kidderminster stealing vital donations and prompting staff to spend hundreds of pounds beefing up security.

They have struck at The Kemp Hospice shop in Oxford Street six times during the past three months, staff say. The nearby Forest Dog Rescue shop has also reported a spate of thefts over the year.

Police said officers had been out to the shops to investigate the crimes and offer security advice to staff.

In the latest raid at the Kemp Hospice shop, thieves used specialist cutting equipment to force their way into the stock room before making off with clothing and bric-a-brac.

Shop manager Rita Willetts said the break-ins had been "demolising" for staff who were left to clear up the mess left behind.

The shop has been forced to spend up to £1,000 fitting grilles to windows and doors in a bid to thwart the thieves.

Mrs Willetts said: "We have had to fit grilles to doors and windows after raiders forced open doors and scattered items all over the rear yard.

"We thought it was just opportunist thieves but last time they used cutting equipment and we now feel the thieves have started to make a major effort to break into the premises to find items they could then sell. We feared they might break into the main section of the shop and have since been advised how to beef up security."

"The problem is that any outlay is eating into the takings."

Tribute acts for charity

ROBBIE Williams and Michael Buble tribute acts will help raise funds for Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Hospice at the Kingfisher Country Club, Wall Heath on November 17. It will also feature an auction, raffle and disco. Tickets are £12 and available on 07969 399036.

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Calls to make cottages into museum and centre

THREE historic carpet weavers' cottages in Kidderminster should be turned into a community centre and museum, residents say.

Plans are being drawn up to restore the homes which stand empty in Kidderminster's Horsefair.

Worcestershire Building Preservation Trust will submit a bid for Heritage Lottery funding to get the project off the ground by the end of the year.

At a public meeting held at the Museum of Carpet last week residents were given more information about the restoration plans.

The proposals are to refurbish and extend the properties to create a new kitchen, bathroom and additional bedroom so they could be lived in again. But when asked to give their views on the scheme many residents

said they wanted the houses to be opened up to the community to use and display their heritage.

Former Wyre Forest MP Dr Richard Taylor said he believed they could pay homage to their past and be used to display a full-sized working loom.

It's believed that in at least one of the artisan cottages a weaving loom would have been on the top floor.

Terry Thomas, who runs Mr Tees Records in the Horsefair, said: "These cottages are an important part of Kidderminster's past and it would be great to make them available to the community."

Residents also suggested the cottages could house meeting rooms.

Store reopens after a major makeover



Inside Diffusion, marketing and creative director Rav Rayet

A FASHION store has been relaunched at Merry Hill Shopping Centre following an extensive refurbishment.

The new-look Diffusion reopened last week following completion of the revamp.

The makeover, which took a fortnight, proved an immediate hit with shoppers with the shop floor expanded.

Specialised jeans and footwear departments have also been created and the interior refitted.

Creative director for the store Rav Rayet said: "We re-launched the store and are really pleased with the reaction we have been getting."

"It has been a long time since any real changes were made to the store and we wanted to do something different."

"It has been a major refurbishment and we are delighted with the result."

Suspects may face automatic drug test

ANYONE arrested for a range of crimes in Kidderminster, Stourport and Bewdley will now face an automatic drug test.

Prisoners taken to Kidderminster police station will be forced to have tests for Class A drugs – including heroin, crack and cocaine – if they are suspected of offences such as burglary, theft and fraud.

Other "trigger" offences which automatically lead to testing, cover drug supply or possession. Anyone who refuses to co-operate with a test will be committing a criminal offence and could be jailed for up to three months, as well as facing a fine. The move, which follows similar action in other parts of the West Midlands, is aimed at helping to identify and tackle the kind of offences often committed by people addicted to drugs.

"Drug Testing on Arrest" is part of the Drug Intervention Programme – known as DIP – which will lead to agencies stepping in to offer treatment to those testing positive to wean them off the substances that often cause them to commit crime. The testing will apply to anyone aged over 18 arrested for one of the "trigger" offences at Kidderminster, Redditch and Worcester police stations.

Club stalwart dies, 77



Len Hanby, died aged 77

A MAN who was a leading light in the world of Black Country and Staffordshire tennis for almost five decades, has died after a six-year battle with cancer.

Len Hanby was noted for his "fierce" but good-humoured competitiveness on court.

Len, who died on October 25 in Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Hospice, aged 77, served for 45 years on the committee of Wollaston Lawn Tennis Club and also held office for the Stourbridge county organisation.

He and wife, Janet, had been members of the Wollaston club in Stourbridge for 47 years, since it moved to its base in Prestwood Drive, Stourton. He served as president, chairman, treasurer and secretary and, despite his illness, was still active on club business until a couple of weeks ago.

Len, of Hagley Road, Pedmore, Stourbridge, was made a life member of the club in 1997 and served on Staffordshire Lawn Tennis Association Council – now Tennis Staffordshire – from 1970 to 2007, acting as its treasurer for eight years and becoming a vice president.

The Wollaston club's chairman, John Cutler, said: "He was a tireless and selfless worker for the club and was responsible for obtaining many grants and loans, in particular the lottery grant which raised £70,000 towards the fund to lay artificial grass on our courts." Len had a long career as an accountant and enjoyed weekly snooker sessions and was a bell ringer at St Thomas' Church, Stourbridge until recently.

His funeral is on November 13 at 10.45am at Our Lady and All Saints Catholic Church, Stourbridge.

Taxis in call for a rethink

PRIVATE hire taxi drivers in Dudley are demanding a rethink over the council's policy for only white cars to be used in the borough.

The single white car scheme established in 1996 helps with public safety.

They claim the popularity of the colour showcased on high performance cars in music videos and as the latest accessory for celebrities has pushed the price of vehicles through the roof.

Dudley Private Hire and Taxi Association is asking for the council to consider introducing another colour like silver or grey that would be a lot cheaper.

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Natuzzi Leather contemporary corner group, recliner chair & footstool (D) £3249 £1558

Derwent Cavendish 3 seater sofa, chair and footstool (T) £2639 £1289

Ashley Manor Leather and fabric Chesterfield sofa (D) £1999 £776

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GPlan Leather Nevada high back 3 seater sofa and chair £3299 £1376

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CLUB NEWS

Questions are raised over care

MYTIME OVER FIFTIES

THE October meeting began with the speaker introducing an alternative to residential care.

Mrs Sheena Williams explained that being in a care home may exacerbate an elderly person's mental condition. Incidence of depression and feelings of isolation may arise, caused by the loss of independence, their home and sometimes a loved one.

As a result, it may be preferable to maintain an elderly person in their own home. To this end, care can be provided on a live-in basis. If this type of care is chosen, the carer stays with the client seven days a week for up to two weeks at a time, providing companionship and giving continuity of care.

This type of care was unknown to most of the visitors and members so there were many questions for Mrs Williams to answer.

During October MyTime members enjoyed a lunch visit and a concert at Dudley Concert Hall.

MyTime Over Fifties meets on the fourth Wednesday in each month in the Amblecote Room at Stourbridge Town Hall at 2pm.

At the next meeting on November 28, the speaker will be Ms Liz Leek on the History of the Birmingham Hippodrome.

For more information call Audrey 01384 864223 or Graham 01384 393483.

Historian gives talk on long-lost railway

Historian Dr Paul Collins, author of the book *The Kinver Light Railway*, gave a talk to the Black Country Society

THE BLACK COUNTRY SOCIETY

THE Kingswinford branch met on October 17 in Kingswinford Church Hall.

Chairman Joan White introduced the speaker Dr Paul Collins, author of *The Kinver Light Railway*.

The railway closed in 1930. It ran from the Fish Inn, Amblecote, through Wollaston and the Bridgnorth Road to the Stewponey and Foley Arms Hotel, Stourton. From there it continued through the Hyde Meadows and Woodlands to Kinver village.

Paul was thanked for his excellent talk, illustrated with superb pictures on slide.

The next meeting will be held in Kingswinford Church Hall on Wednesday November 21 at 7.45pm when the speaker will be David Bills MBE on Kinver Rock Houses.

History of Harvington Hall**BLACKHEATH 'M' TWG**

THE October 24 meeting was opened by chairman Doreen Armstrong who welcomed all members present and speaker Pat Green.

Pat gave an interesting talk on Harvington Hall, a moated manor house containing seven priest holes.

She wore a costume of the Elizabethan era and explained all the various parts of her costume from head to toe. She also gave a small

history of Elizabeth I who had stayed at Harvington Hall. Members found the whole talk very interesting.

The chairman then welcomed all members to the guild's 14th birthday.

Three ladies had represented the guild at the annual national lunch at the

chapter house of Worcester Cathedral, the theme being 'Titanic Remembered'.

At the end of business the members were treated to a small party and given cream cakes and drinks. Three members won prizes in the monthly free raffle.

The next meeting is on November 28 at The Moose Hall, Beeches Road. The speaker will be Mr John Smith on 'Radio Memories'.

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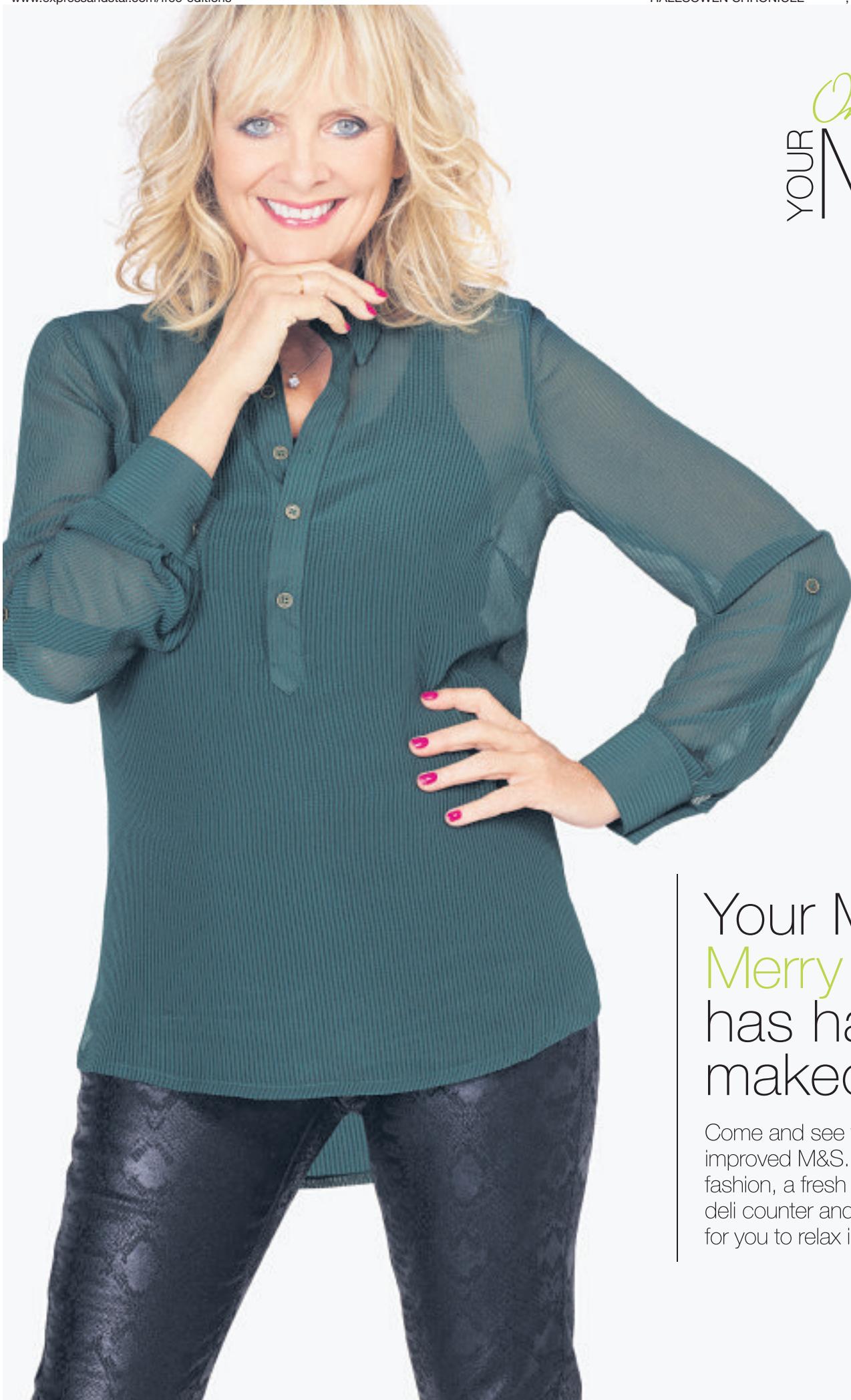
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NEWS**Still time to get a share of £250,000**

ENTREPRENEURS in Dudley still have time to bid for a share of a £250,000 cash pot.

The Dudley Council fund is available to develop a social enterprise economy in the borough. The purpose of the fund is to support people looking to set up social enterprises. The support includes an opportunity to bid for funding of up to £10,000. A package of training, business mentoring and support will also be available.

Applications need to be returned by November 31. Councillor Shaukat Ali, said the bids will be considered by a Dragons Den-style panel.

Guitars are going

Stourbridge Music Centre owner Peter Cox and his son Matthew with the guitars owned by Dudley jazz musician Jack McKechnie

A COLLECTION of vintage guitars belonging to a Dudley jazz musician has gone on sale.

The instruments were owned by Jack McKechnie, of Dudley, who was a regular television and radio performer during the 1940s and 1950s.

Mr McKechnie, who died in 2002, also co-owned the Modern Music store on Castle Hill, for many years with business partner Bob Nash.

Mr McKechnie's family decided to sell the collection of guitars, each worth thousands, after his wife Pauline died earlier this year. They asked Stourbridge Music Centre, in Lower High Street, where Mr Nash now works a few days a week, to handle the sale.

The collection includes a Gibson L7c from 1962, valued at £3,000, and a Gibson L5 Custom Electric Special from 1969, worth £6,000. But the rarest item is Mr McKechnie's Grimshaw, which was custom-made and is worth around £2,500.

It was the second Grimshaw guitar he owned after the first was stolen following a concert at the Queen Mary Ballroom, in Dudley, in the late 1950s.

Warning over theft of drugs

POLICE have issued a warning after a quantity of medication was stolen during a burglary in Kidderminster.

It happened at a house in Cobden Street between 12.45am and 9.30am on Tuesday. A back door was levered open while the occupants were asleep.

Items stolen included two EpiPens to combat allergic reactions, as well as dihydrocodeine painkillers in a bottle and diazepam tranquillisers on tablet sheets.

Also taken was a blue Acer notebook worth £200, a £100 silver Dell laptop worth £100 and an silver Apple iPod Shuffle worth £30.

The thieves also took a lady's gold watch, a gold fairy pendant, a black leather handbag, £128 cash and bank cards. Damage of £100 was caused.

Leaflets have been delivered to homes in the area and police have stepped up patrols.

Pc Adrian Bartlett of West Mercia Police said officers were concerned the medication could be discarded as it could be harmful to anyone it is not prescribed for.

Witnesses or anyone with information are asked to contact Pc Bartlett on 101 quoting incident 161-s-301012 or ring Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

More choice for patients

PATIENTS with hearing loss in Worcestershire now have more choice on where to get treatment, NHS bosses say.

People aged 55 years who need care for non-complex age related hearing loss can decide where and how they receive their care and who provides it. Patients meeting the criteria for non-complex hearing loss will choose which service provider they are referred to.

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NEWS

Centre swimming pool to close for air vent work

THE swimming pool at Dudley Leisure Centre will close for almost two months while work installing new air circulating units is carried out.

The pool will be shut from November 19 until January 7 while the £250,000 project is completed.

The units will replace the dated system which was installed in 1978. Bosses said the rest of the centre, including the gym and dome sports pitch, would remain open to the public while the work on the pool is taking place.

Councillor Tracy Wood said: "I would like to apologise to the centre's users for this extended closure due to the installation. November and December are traditionally the quietest months for the centre which is

why we have chosen to carry out this important work now."

In September, the council approved proposals to replace dozens of lockers at Dudley's three main leisure centres at a cost of £114,000.

They are used by swimmers using the pools at the centres in Dudley, Halesowen and Stourbridge.

A report, which went before Dudley Council's cabinet, said they were in need of replacement after five years.

Earlier this year the leisure pool at Stourbridge's Crystal Leisure Centre was closed for five days due to a mechanical fault.

Engineers were able to trace the problem to a filter in a pump unit. A new unit was installed and the pool reopened.

Glass museum is closer

PLANS for a long-awaited glass museum at a historic former factory are moving closer to reality as it emerged a bid for funding will finally be made within days.

The finishing touches are being made to an application for around £2 million from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for the development on the former Stuart Crystal glassworks site in Wordsley.

The museum will house collections from across the region and is expected to attract thousands of visitors.

The bidding process has been delayed in recent months but devel-

opers say the application will finally go through by the end of this month.

Site owners Complex Developments revealed they are now planning to carry out building work in stages to ensure there are no further delays.

It is hoped work can begin next spring if the first round of funding is granted.

Inject

Charity the British Glass Foundation will then inject cash from donations raised.

Money will also be sought from the Heritage Lottery Fund, with a bid due to be submitted in February.

Ian Harrabin, director of Complex Developments, said: "The bid for

European funding will go towards the main derelict buildings." It is the last chance we will get under the current European programme and the buildings might not even be there if we have to wait for the next round.

"We are looking at moving the project forward in stages - we need to give it a kick start and then expand further in the future."

The project was thrown into doubt last year when arsonists gutted one of the Grade II listed former factories. And vandal attacks since then have forced bosses to step up security by installing fencing.

The application for funding is being drawn up with the help of Dudley Council.

Actress to join Fizzog

A COMEDY actress who became an overnight internet sensation is teaming up with a Black Country theatre group for their pantomime.

Gill Jordan, from Walsall, scored more than a million views on internet video site YouTube with her sketch Doreen's Story.

She has now signed up to star with Fizzog Theatre Company for its latest production. Fizzogs will stage Kippin' Beauty throughout the region in December and January. Shows are on December 7 and 8 at Thorns Community College, Thorns Road, Quarry Bank.

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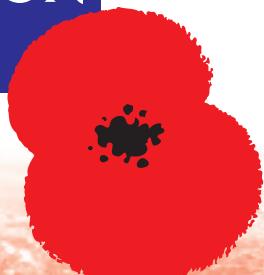
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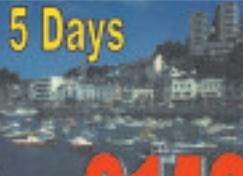
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What's On! Halesowen

Ghostly goings on during town tour
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The tour starts and finishes in the Station Hotel, at the bottom of Castle Hill, Dudley.

It then takes in sites around the town, including Dudley Castle.

There is a discretionary age limit of 14 and over. Some stories contain very mild sexual content.

Due to the nature of the terrain, it is not recommended for people with walking difficulties, or a heart condition. Tickets are £8. To book call 01384 812812.

Tribute to heyday of Motown sound

THERE will be a tribute to the heyday of Motown and soul floorfillers on a night out in Halesowen next weekend.

The Junction 3 Soul Club arrives at Benjamins, in Birmingham Street, on November 17.

The Blues Brothers vs Motown night features an Elwood and Jake tribute.

The night runs from 8pm to 1am with tickets £5 in advance or £6 on the door. Call 0121 602 0202, 07710 131979 or 07834 809204.

Singer's showtime

SINGER Dave Stevens will perform at a club in Halesowen this weekend.

His show is at The Laurels Club, Windmill Hill, Cradley, on Saturday (10) from 8pm. For details call 0121 602 1812 or visit www.thelaurrels.webeden.co.uk

Check your Calendar to see the girls reveal their story

THE global phenomenon *Calendar Girls* returns to Wolverhampton Grand next week after a record-breaking performance at the theatre in October last year.

Based on a true story and the smash hit film, *Calendar Girls* is quirky, poignant and hilarious show.

Volcano to erupt with sonnet play

IN celebration of its 25th anniversary, theatre production company Volcano is reviving its hit threesome based on Shakespeare's sonnets.

The new production of L.O.V.E. will play at the Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, on November 13 and 14 from 7.30pm.

In tribute to the original director and choreographer, Nigel Charnock, who died last month, the play is being restaged using the original design and choreography.

The company said it had been turned into a "bitter-sweet celebration". Tickets cost £9 (£7 concessions) on 01902 321 321.

It tells the story of a group of women, all members of a Yorkshire WI, who became a world-wide phenomenon when they persuade one another to pose for a charity calendar with a difference.

Birds of a Feather star, Lesley Joseph, plays the role of Miss October alongside a stellar cast that includes Kacey Ainsworth who played Little Mo in EastEnders, and Su Holderness who is best known as Marlene Boyce in the BBC's hugely popular Only Fools and Horses.

Kathryn Rooney returns as Miss September having starred in the West End production, and Hollyoaks star Kevin Sacre plays Lawrence, the photographer, alongside his wife Camilla Dallerup as Miss May.

Directed by Jack Ryder and with set design by Robert Jones, the show ought to be on everyone's calendar when it starts on Monday for one week only.



Evanescence frontwoman Amy Lee struggles with fame

Cool mystery in fast world of rock

IN the fast-moving world of pop, Evanescence are something of an anomaly.

Every time they release an album it's treated as a comeback. That's not because they've split up and reformed, rather because they like to take their time.

Lead singer Amy Lee says: "People these days make records so fast—but I guess I really feel like the more important thing is making something really great."

"Our following has always been a little underground and we're not that thing that's on the radio all the time. There is an element of cool mysterious."

The Evanescence juggernaut has been working its way around the globe since 2011, when they released their third album, titled Evanescence, the follow-up to 2006's smash hit *The Open Door*. "I think that we were really lucky with Fallen

and had a much bigger success than we could have planned for," the 30-year-old says.

"It's afforded me having things like a few years between records to make something truly inspired the next time around."

But the fame of the group – formed in 1995 in Little Rock, Arkansas – has hardened Lee.

"Whether it's a relationship or what you're wearing, or how much you weigh and what you said when you didn't mean it like—it's hard to be totally under the microscope," she says. "But I feel better about it now."

The sound of their latest self-titled album is not a huge departure from Fallen, but it was more of a 'group effort', Lee says.

• Evanescence play Birmingham's NIA on Thursday and tickets are available from the venue.

Get in the mood for Miller sound
BIG band fans will be entertained by the classic sounds of the Glenn Miller Orchestra in Dudley.

Band leader Ray McVay will bring the sound of the 1940s to the Black Country on November 17 at 7.30pm.

The show features the harmonies of the Moonlight Serenaders, along with singers Catherine Sykes and Colin Anthony and Ray Wordsworth with The Uptown Hall Gang.

Tickets are £18.50 from the box office on 01384 812812.

Cooking students to give taste of Thai

STUDENTS from Halesowen College will bring Thai tastes to town with two themed nights on November 14 and 15.

People should arrive in time for a pre-dinner aperitif at 6.45pm, with dinner at 7pm at the £14.95 event.

It will be held at the restaurant on the Wellington Road campus. Call the booking centre on 0121 602 7851 between 8am and 5pm or 0121 602 7777 (ext 211) between 5pm and 9pm or email restaurant@halesowen.ac.uk

Queen tribute act

A PUB near Halesowen is staging a Freddie Mercury and Queen tribute act Pure Magic on Saturday night. The show is at Knights Quest pub, Blackheath High Street. Entrance is £3. There will also be three consecutive karaoke nights.

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What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 10.11.12

CHOICE



Russell Watson

The Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance BBC1, 9.15pm

The situation in the Middle East means that the sacrifices made by British soldiers are in many people's minds all year round. But that won't lessen the impact of the Festival of Remembrance. Among those taking part this year will be the Military Wives choir, formed last year by Gareth Malone; you may remember they also appeared at last year's service. This time around, they'll be joined on stage by former X Factor finalist and serving soldier Jonjo Kerr in a rendition of In My Dreams.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 9.30 Saturday Kitchen Best Bits. 10.45 Lord Mayor's Show 2012. 12.00 BBC News: Regional News: Weather. 12.15 Football Focus. 1.00 Bargain Hunt. (R) 2.00 Live International Rugby Union. 4.30 Final Score. 5.20 BBC News: Regional News: Weather. 5.40 Power of Celebrities. 6.30 Saturday Night Shopping. Claudia Winkleman joins Tess Daly to present another ballroom battle as the pro-celebrity couples bid to impress the judges and get their names at the top of the leaderboard. The results are tomorrow night at 20.00.

8.05 Merlin. Morgan stretches Gwen and locks her in a magical tower, forcing Arthur and his knights to battle all manner of dangers as they set out to rescue the queen.

8.50 The National Lottery Saturday Night Draws. Scott Mills presents a performance by the band The Kooks before the button to set the balls rolling in the Lotto and Thunderball draws.

9.00 BBC News: Weather.

9.15 The Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance. Annual event paying tribute to the victims of war and conflict, held at the Royal Albert Hall in the presence of the Queen. With Rod Stewart, Russell Watson and Alexandra Burke.

10.50 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of today's Premier League clashes, including Aston Villa v Manchester United at Villa Park, Arsenal v Southampton at the Emirates Stadium. National Lottery Update.

12.10 The Football League Show. 1.25 Weatherview. 1.30 BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Ceefees. 7.00 CBBC. 12.00 The Sky at Night. (R) 12.20 Film: Flying Down to Rio. (1933) 1.45 Live Tennis: ATP World Tour Finals. Sue Barker presents coverage of day six from the O2 in London. **5.00 Live International Rugby Union.** Ireland v South Africa (Kick-off 5.30pm).

7.30 Attenborough's Ark: Natural World Special. David Attenborough chooses the 10 endangered animals that he would most like to save from extinction, highlighting the work of biologists helping to keep them alive. (R)

8.05 Merlin. Morgan stretches Gwen and locks her in a magical tower, forcing Arthur and his knights to battle all manner of dangers as they set out to rescue the queen.

9.00 QXL. Stephen Fry hosts an extended edition of the quiz, with Zeddie, Sue Perkins, Ross Noble and Alan Davies answering questions on the topic of jeopardy.

9.45 The Making of QI. An insight into the production of the popular comedy quiz show in which host Stephen Fry awards points to contestants who provide interesting answers to his questions. (R)

10.45 Film: Perfect Score. (2011) Premiere. A chef and a scientist fall in love as an epidemic sweeps the world, robbing people of their ability to smell and taste. Romantic drama, with Ewan McGregor and Eva Green.

12.15 Film: The Edge of the Worlds. (1968) Second World War mystery, starring Peter O'Toole. 2.30 Close.

ITV1

6.00 CITV: Mickey Mouse Clubhouse. **6.25 The Hive.** (R) 6.35 The Hive. (R) 6.45 The Hive. (R) 6.50 Cannimals. (R) 7.00 Cannimals. (R) 7.05 The Avengers. 7.25 Rated A For Awesome. 7.40 Rated A For Awesome. 7.50 Horrid Henry. (R) 8.05 Horrid Henry. (R) 8.20 Grand Hen. (R) 8.30 Grand Hen. (R) 8.40 My Phone Genie. 9.25 ITV News. **9.30 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA.** 10.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **11.20 Dinner Date:** Australia. **12.15 ITV News:** Weather. **12.30 Countrywise.** **12.45 Holiday Home Sweet Home.** 1.45 Holiday Home Sweet Home. 2.00 Film: Star Wars: Episode VI – Return of the Jedi. (1983) **5.20 Regional Programme:** Weather. **5.35 ITV News:** Weather. **5.50 The Golden Rules of TV.** **6.20 Now You've Been Framed!** **6.50 Take Me Out.** A London saxophonist who tours with Olly Murs, an electrician from Pontefract in West Yorkshire, a Sydney boatboxer and a bike engineer from Cornwall take part in the dating show. **8.05 The X Factor.** Dermot O'Leary presents the sixth live studio round as the remaining acts battle to win praise from the tough-talking judges and persuade viewers to pick up their phones and vote. **9.50 The Jonathan Ross Show.** With Damian Lewis and Psy. Last in the series. **10.50 ITV News:** Weather. **11.05 Film: The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift.** (2006) Motor-racing adventure, starring Lucas Black. **1.00 The Stork.** ITV News Headlines. **3.00 Lalette to Lady:** Australia. (R) **3.45 ITV Nightscreen:** 5.30 ITV Morning News.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 Channel 4 Presents – Jonnie. (R) 6.20 The Treacle People. (R) **6.30 Beach Volleyball. (R) 7.25 British Rallycross. **7.50 Channel 4 Presents – Nathan.** (R) 7.55 The Morning Line. **8.55 T4:** The Crush. **9.25 T4:** Made in Chelsea. **10.25 T4:** Suburgatory. **10.55 T4:** The Big Bang Theory. **11.25 T4:** The Simpsons. (R) **12.25 T4:** The Simpsons. (R) **12.55 Deal or No Deal.** **1.55 Channel 4 Racing:** 3.55 Come Dine with Me Down Under. **4.25 Come Dine with Me Down Under.** 4.55 Come Dine with Me Down Under. **5.55 Come Dine with Me Down Under.** **6.55 Come Dine with Me Down Under.** **7.25 5 News Weekend.** **7.30 Film: The Bridge at Remagen.** (1969) American soldiers are sent to capture a strategically vital bridge over the Rhine before German soldiers destroy it. Second World War adventure, with George Segal and Robert Vaughn.**

9.45 CSI: Miami. Horatio and the team investigate the death of a janitor at a tennis academy and uncover evidence that someone at the establishment is a child molester.

10.45 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. Part one of two. A man accused of murdering his wife and colleagues takes a woman hostage in a casino hotel room, forcing Brass to negotiate. Starring Paul Guilloyle.

9.00 Heston's Fantastical Food. Heston Blumenthal super-sizes all manner of foodstuffs, beginning with breakfast, which includes the world's largest boiled egg, epic centimetre-long sausages. (R)

9.00 Film: Knight and Day. (2010) Premiere. A woman gets dragged into a rogue secret agent's mission to clear his name after he is framed as a traitor. Comedy adventure, with Tom Cruise.

11.15 Film: There's Something About Mary. (1998) Comedy, starring Cameron Diaz.

1.30 Film: Viva Rival. (2010) 3.05 Hollyoaks. **5.10 Deal or No Deal.** (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake. **10.00 Power Rangers: Super Samurais.** **10.35 ThunderCats.** **11.10 The Removal Men.** (R) **12.10 Cowboy Builders.** (R) **1.05 Rolt's Animal Clinic.** (R) **2.05 Film:** The Accidental Witness. (2006) Thriller, starring Natasha Gregson Wagner and Currie Graham. **3.55 Film:** Wandering Earth. (2011) **5.40 Film:** Hell Boats. (1970) **7.25 5 News Weekend.** **7.30 Film: The Bridge at Remagen.** (1969) American soldiers are sent to capture a strategically vital bridge over the Rhine before German soldiers destroy it. Second World War adventure, with George Segal and Robert Vaughn.

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10.45 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. Part one of two. A man accused of murdering his wife and colleagues takes a woman hostage in a casino hotel room, forcing Brass to negotiate. Starring Paul Guilloyle.

11.40 Forensic Files. How forensic techniques help solve puzzles. **12.00 Detectives** investigate whether a businessman has been killed deliberately during a robbery. (R)

12.10 SuperCasino. **4.00 House Doctor.** (R) **4.25 Divine Designs.** (R) **4.50 County Secrets.** (R) **5.05 Doctor Who.** (R) **5.15 Mr & Mrs Millahill Show.** (R) **5.40 Thomas & Friends.** (R) **5.50 Roary the Racing Car.** (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three **7.00 International Rugby Union.** **8.00 Live at the Apollo.** **10.00 Russell Howard's Good News Extra.** **10.45 Family Guy.** **11.30 American Dad!** **BBC Four** **7.00 Pavlopatri – The City Beneath the Waves.** **8.00 Shock and Awe: The Story of Electricity.** **9.00 Inspector Montalbano.** **10.40 Nigel Slater: Life Is Sweets.** **11.40 Do We Really Need the Moon?** **ITV2** **3.00 The X Factor USA.** **5.55 Film:** The Polar Express. (2004) **7.50 Film:** Land of the Lost. (2009) **9.50 Film:** Xtra Factor. **10.50 Take Me Out – The Gossip.** **11.35 Celebrity Juice.** **ITV3** **3.55 Goodnight Mister Tom.** **6.00 Murder, She Wrote.** **6.55 Rosemary & Thyme.** **8.00 Foyle's War.** **10.00 Bomb Girls.** **11.15 Film:** Elizabeth: The Golden Age. (2007) **E4** **3.30 Made in Chelsea.** **4.35 Baggage.** **5.55 How I Met Your Mother.** **6.30 The Big Bang Theory.** **8.00 Rules of Engagement.** **9.00 Rude Tube.** **10.00 Film:** Under Siege 2: Dark Territory. (1995) **Film4** **3.15 Carry On Sergeant.** (1958) **4.55 The Wedding Planner.** (2001) **6.55 Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian.** (2009) **Fantasy** comedy sequel, starring Ben Stiller, Amy Adams and Steve Coogan. **9.00 Shrek the Third.** (2004) **Thriller:** With Ewan McGregor and Kerry Fox. **10.50 Kill List.** (2011)

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What's On!**SUNDAY'S TV 11.11.12****CHOICE**

Tamsin Greig

**Friday Night Dinner
Channel 4, 10pm**

Friday Night Dinner (season one) marked Channel 4's biggest comedy launch in the last seven years, and helped boost the already impressive careers of The Inbetweeners' Simon Bird, and ever-sublime Episodes star Tamsin Greig. This second run has been just as much fun, and in the final offering the lads return home to find the builders have been in and the house is in a complete mess. To make matters worse, there's a mouse loose, Mum has taken up refuge in the shed, and Dad is in charge of making dinner. Twitchy Jim nips round to see if he can help.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 7.35 Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.25 Remembrance Sunday.** A Service of Remembrance for the Week Ahead. **12.15 Sunday Politics.** 1.30 Points of View. **1.45 Bargain Hunt.** (R) **2.10 Live.** International Rugby Union. **4.30 Remembrance Week.** (R) **5.25 Songs of Praise.** **6.00 BBC News:** Regional News; Weather.

6.20 Countryfile. A Remembrance Sunday special from the Forest of Dean.

7.20 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. Another couple leave, and violinist Andre Rieu performs.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents a Remembrance Day edition from Farnborough. Items include a WWI helmet or a flying machine and a letter written in the First World War trenches. Red button viewers can play along by guessing the valuations.

9.00 Andrew Marr's History of the World. The modern age – from the world wars to now and beyond. Last in the series.

10.00 BBC News: Regional News; Weather.

10.25 Match of the Day 2. Including highlights of Manchester City v Tottenham Hotspur.

11.35 The Graham Norton Show. With Cameron Diaz, Sarah Millican, Bradley Wiggins and Rod Stewart. (R)

12.20 Film: Masquerade. (1988)

1.50 Weatherview. 1.55 Sign Zone: The Choir: Sing While You Work. (R) **2.55 Hollyoaks.** (R) **3.55 The Paradise.** (R) **4.55 BBC News.**

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00 CBBC.** **9.30 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites.** 11.00 Two Weeks of Silence. **11.05 The Great British Bake Off.** **12.05 Fog It!** (R) **12.30 Live MotoGP.** **2.00 Live Tennis:** ATP World Tour Finals. **4.50 Live International Rugby League.**

7.00 Remembrance Sunday: The Cenotaph Highlights. David Dimbleby and Sophie Raworth present highlights of the morning's ceremony at the Cenotaph in London, where thousands of veterans took part in the traditional march past.

8.00 Operation Iceberg. First of two programmes in which a team of adventurers and scientists, including naturalist Chris Packham and diver Andy Torbet, visit the Arctic to explore the world of icebergs. (R)

9.00 Dragons Den. Ideas and products being pitched to the panel include a tablet computer, caravan covers, an oven-cleaned gadget and a backpack that can be used to tow children on ski slopes.

10.00 Harry & Paul. The Surgeons return to their youth as members of the Cambridge Footlights and the American Cos get arrested.

10.30 Hebburn. Sarah attempts to give Jack advice on his interview technique. (R)

11.00 The Sun Men. (2010)

Premiere. A soul singing duo who have not spoken since falling out years ago travel across America to perform at a tribute concert. Comedy, starring Samuel L Jackson and Bernie Mac.

12.35 Film: Wonderful Town. (2007) Drama, starring Anchorage. **2.05 BBC News.**

ITV1

6.00 CITV: Engie Benji. **6.10 Special Agent Oso.** **6.20 Special Agent Oso.** **6.35 Signed Stories.** (1970) **7.00 The Wombles.** (R) **7.05 Almost Naked Animals.** (R) **7.05 Almost Naked Animals.** (R) **7.35 Almost Naked Animals.** (R) **7.50 Almost Naked Animals.** (R) **8.00 Phineas and Ferb.** **8.15 Phineas and Ferb.** **8.30 Big Time Run.** **9.00 Good Luck Charlie.** **26.11 News.** **9.30 House Gift.** (R) **10.30 The Unforgettable Sid James.** (R) **11.00 ITV News:** Weather. **11.10 ITV News:** Weather.

8.00 Operation Iceberg. First of two programmes in which a team of adventurers and scientists, including naturalist Chris Packham and diver Andy Torbet, visit the Arctic to explore the world of icebergs. (R)

9.00 Dragons Den. Ideas and products being pitched to the panel include a tablet computer, caravan covers, an oven-cleaned gadget and a backpack that can be used to tow children on ski slopes.

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11.00 The Sun Men. (2010)

Premiere. A soul singing duo who have not spoken since falling out years ago travel across America to perform at a tribute concert. Comedy, starring Samuel L Jackson and Bernie Mac.

12.35 ITV News: Weather.

10.50 Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Geri Halliwell. The former Spice Girl is interviewed. (R)

11.45 Anglo-Welsh Cup Rugby Union. Highlights of the opening pool matches.

12.40 The Store. ITV News. Headlines. **2.45 Motorsport UK.** **3.35 ITV Nightscreen.** **5.30 ITV Morning News.**

CHANNEL 4

6.05 Channel 4 Presents – Nathan. (R) **6.10** The Treacle People. (R) **6.20** The Hoobs. (R) **6.45** The Last Days of the Dinosaurs. (R) **6.55** Cannibals. (R) **7.05** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.25** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.35** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.50** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **8.00** Phineas and Ferb. **8.15** Phineas and Ferb. **8.30** Big Time Run. **9.00** Good Luck Charlie. **26.11 News.** **9.30** House Gift. (R) **10.30** The Simpsons. (R) **11.05** Hugh's 3 Good Things. **12.35** Hugh's 3 Good Things. **13.05** Hugh's 3 Good Things. **14.30** The Forgotten Gunners of WW1: A Time Team Special. **5.45** Film: Furry Vengeance. (2010)

7.25 Channel 4 News.

7.55 4thought.tv.

8.00 How Britain Worked. Guy Martin and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.30** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.45** Jelly's Jellies. (R) **10.00** Power Rangers: Super Samurai. (R) **10.35** ThunderCats. (R) **11.00** News: Remembrance Sunday. **11.05** The Gadget Show. (R) **12.05** Wild Things with Dominic Monaghan. (R) **1.05** Film: Stuart Little 3: Call of the Wild. (2009) **2.30** Film: Cats & Dogs. (2001) **4.10** Film: You've Got Mail. (1998)

6.25 5 News Weekend.

6.30 Film: Lost in Space. (1998)

Sci-fi, starring William Hurt and Gary Oldman.

9.00 Film: Valkyrie. (2008)

Premiere. Fact-based thriller, re-creating the 1944 plot by rebel German officers to assassinate Hitler using a briefcase bomb. Starring Tom Cruise, Ewan McGregor, Branagh and Bill Nighy.

10.30 Hatfields & McCoys. Three bounty hunters go after Anse and his sons. (R)

12.30 How Do They Do It? (R) **1.00 SuperCasino.** **4.00** The FBI Files. (R) **4.50 County Secrets.** (R) **5.05 Hana's Home.** (R) **5.15** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.10** Misfits. (R) **7.00** The Spy Next Door. (2010) **9.00** The Bank Job. (2008) **11.10** Walter. (1982)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** Bert and Ernie. (R) **6.30** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.45** Olive the Ostrich. (R) **6.50** Abby's Flying Fairy School. (R) **7.05** Roobarbs and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.20** Play! **7.30** The Flintstones. (1994) **7.50** Take Me Out. **6.10** Take Me Out – The Gossip. (2000) **7.00** Film: Dragonheart. (1996) **9.00** The Xtra Factor Results. **10.00** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records. **10.35** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here Now! **11.35** Giraffe3nDS

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Junior Doctors: Your Life in Their Hands. **7.55** Great Movie Mistakes. **8.00** Gavin & Stacey. **9.00** Sun, Sea and Sunshine. **9.30** Parents' Day. **10.45** Family Guy. **11.30** Some Girls

BBC Four
7.00 Apples: British to the Core. **8.00** Michael Wood: The Story of India. **9.00** Legends: Roy Orbison – The "Big O". **9.30** Film: The Bird with the Crystal Plumage. (1970) **11.35** Michael Wood: Stories of India.

ITV2
3.20 Film: The Flintstones. (1994) **5.00** Take Me Out. **6.10** Take Me Out – The Gossip. (2000) **7.00** Film: Dragonheart. (1996) **9.00** The Xtra Factor Results. **10.00** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records. **10.35** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here Now! **11.35** Giraffe3nDS

ITV3
7.55 Albert's Memorial. **4.25** David Jason. **5.25** David Jason's Greatest Escapes. **7.00** Housewife. **9.00** Joe Maddison's War. **10.50** The Touch of Frost.

ITV4
3.45 Film: Lonely Are the Brave (1962) **6.00** British Touring Car Championship Review 2012. **8.00** Anglo-Welsh Cup Rugby Union. **9.00** Film: Mercury Rising (1998) **11.15** Film: The Kingdom (2007)

E4
3.10 Charlie's Angels. **4.05** Made in Chelsea. **5.10** New Girl. **5.40** Suburbia. **6.10** The Big Bang Theory. **8.00** Film: My Super Ex-Girlfriend. (2006) **10.00** Misfits. **11.10** The Work Experience.

Film4
2.55 Tora! Tora! Tora! (1970) **5.45** The Rockford Pioneers (2010) **7.10** The Spy Next Door. (2010) **9.00** The Bank Job. (2008) **11.10** Walter. (1982)

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What's On!

Film Choices

Monday

Training Day, ITV1, 11.05pm

A cop embarks on his first day in narcotics, partnering a seasoned officer whose willingness to flout the rules forces him to question everything he has learnt. As they resort to extreme measures to crack a case, the rookie is left battling his conscience in a dangerous situation. Thriller, starring Denzel Washington, Ethan Hawke, Scott Glenn and Tom Berenger. (2001)

Tuesday

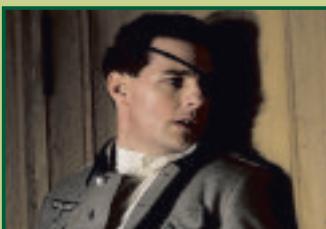
Veronica Guerin, BBC1, 11.35pm

Fact-based drama about crime reporter Veronica Guerin, who set out to expose Ireland's crime lords but ended up paying the ultimate price. The film opens with the journalist's assassination, then looks back to trace her attempts to establish a link between Dublin's drug trade and infamous gangster Martin Cahill in the mid-1990s. Starring Cate Blanchett, Gerard McSorley, Ciaran Hinds and Brenda Fricker. (2003)

Wednesday

Erin Brockovich, Channel 5, 9pm

A single mother desperate for work pleads her way into a routine administrative job at a law firm. It is not long before she stumbles across mislaid documents about a case brought against a corporation for poisoning the residents of a small town by contaminating their water supply. Realising something is amiss, she begins her own investigation. Fact-based drama, with Julia Roberts in an Oscar-winning role, alongside Albert Finney and Aaron Eckhart. (2000)



Valkyrie, Thursday, Channel 5, 10pm

Thursday

Valkyrie, Channel 5, 10pm

Fact-based thriller, re-creating the 1944 plot to assassinate Hitler using a briefcase bomb. As the tide of the Second World War turns in favour of the Allies, a group of senior German officers recruits war hero Colonel Claus von Stauffenberg to spearhead an attempt on the Fuehrer's life. Starring Tom Cruise, Kenneth Branagh, Bill Nighy, Tom Wilkinson, Carice van Houten, Thomas Kretschmann, Terence Stamp and Eddie Izzard. (2008)

Friday

Wanted, ITV1, 10.35pm

A frustrated everyman learns his father was a member of a secret society of super-powered assassins dedicated to eliminating people who are destined to commit acts of evil in the future. Having inherited his father's special abilities, he is recruited into the organisation and must take on a former member who has betrayed it. Action adventure, starring James McAvoy, Angelina Jolie and Morgan Freeman. (2008)

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Pick of the Week

Celebrities launch into a new jungle challenge

Ant and Dec return for a new run of the series that dozens of critics love to ridicule, but millions of us can't get enough of.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the show which successfully mashed up Celebrity Big Brother with Survivor and became one of the most talked about shows on TV.

In 2002, the powers that be at ITV first discussed the seemingly absurd idea of taking a handful of headline-grabbing celebrities, cutting off their home comforts and throwing them into the middle of a beastie-inhabited Australian jungle.

"It'll never work" cried a groaning public. How wrong we seemingly were.

Admittedly there are plenty of celebrities we'd love to throw in the jungle never to see a trace of again.

But we'll happily settle for the next best thing – sending them into the catastrophic rat-infested pits, swimming through snake-infested swamps or having them served up a three-course meal of the jungle menu's finest delicacies.

As usual, ITV is keeping it under wraps exactly who will be putting themselves at the mercy of the jungle, but for those who do end up in the running include former Corrie girl Helen Flanagan, Olympic swimmer Rebecca Adlington, darts ace Eric Bristow, former Pussycat Doll Ashley Roberts, actress Linda Robson (Birds of a Feather), and, stretching the Celebrity tag to breaking point, Kate Middleton's buxom supermodel cousin Katrina Darlings. (We haven't got a clue either.)

While some celebs may have come across a big girl's blouse during the trial, former contestant Jessie Bond proved she was made of tougher stuff.

"I'm A Celebrity... was the most life-changing part of my career," recalls the ex-BBC Royal Correspondent. "Being buried in a coffin and covered in rats for the show was enough to give many folks nightmares, but Jennie took it all in her stride."

"They said: 'Creatures would come in...' and I thought: 'Okay, that's rats. I can handle that.' I was thinking about snakes and how I was going to tackle the snakes coming in, and they never did. So it was mind over matter really."

White as a ghost, may have come in...

Christopher Biggins also has "fond" memories of his time in the jungle. "I loved every minute of it, I wouldn't have missed it for the world – and I'd never do it again," he laughs with that trademark cackle.

"It was very, very tough. The boredom is the biggest thing. There's nothing to do, nothing to read, nothing to write with, nothing to watch, all you have is your fellow contestants, and you long to get out and be covered in rats or something because it relieves the boredom."

Ah yes, the boredom. Something Dom Joly also had a problem with. "It seems to go on forever," he remarks.

"You get up so early and the only sort of saving grace is you go to bed as early as possible to try and get it to finish."

Messrs McPartlin and Donnelly will also be opting for an early night as they have to be up at the crack of dawn to present the morning launch show, before possibly retiring to the hotel pool, or more likely a couple of hours on the golf course.

A hard life isn't it lads?



Ant and Dec host I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here!, Sunday, ITV1, 9pm

Best of the Rest

Monday

The All New Gadget Show
Channel 5, 8pm

Jason Bradbury and Pollyanna Woodward continue their tech-led trek across the globe, making a stop in the spectacular surroundings of Iceland. During a whale-watching trip, they test out the latest binoculars and back on dry land, turn their attention to geothermal technology. After their sojourn in the wilderness, it's time to sample the country's urban landscape. In Reykjavik, they ditch the expensive gadgets to concentrate on budget alternatives – laptops are put through their paces before sampling cloud storage solutions. Part-travelogue, part-consumer show, this series continues to go from strength to strength and is a must for those trying desperately to keep up with the latest technological developments.

Full English

Channel 4, 10.50pm

When it comes to sitcoms, the Brits can generally hold their own against the US, except in one area – animation. However, Full English is here to restore some of our natural pride and show we can take on the likes of Family Guy and The Simpsons. The IT Crowd's Richard Ayoade provides the voice of Edgar Johnson, who shares his home with wife Wendy (Rosie Cavaliero), moody teenage daughter Eve (Daisy Haggard), and sons Dusty and Jason (both voiced by Facejacker's Kayvan Novak). In the first episode, Eve enters her band, Bloodmonkey, into Britain's Got Talent and does unexpectedly well – not because she's any good, but because Simon Cowell mistakenly thinks she's an orphan.

Tuesday

The Paradise
BBC1, 8pm

This latest offering from the Beeb seems to have worked wonders for rising starlet Joanna Vanderham – so now that we've reached the last episode of the series, here's hoping the offers come rolling in for her. The wedding is fast approaching but will there be a happy ending for anyone? It looks doubtful, as a shocking discovery in the dead of night sends shockwaves through the Paradise. Moray puts together a party for the staff to celebrate his marriage, but instead he realises where his heart lies. So he has a decision to make.

Wednesday

The Hour
BBC2, 9pm

Following a barnstorming debut series last year, we're thrilled to see this newsroom drama back – it's intelligent, informative and features some fantastic acting from a talented ensemble cast – basically all the things you want from a good programme. It's now November 1957, and Freddie has gone travelling, leaving Hector and Bel to keep The Hour going. But new boss Randall Brown has a trick up his sleeve that will shake them both up. However, Hector seems more interested in using his newfound celebrity status to rub shoulders with Soho's glitterati, in particular a beautiful showgirl called Kiki. Dominic West stars.

Thursday

Young Apprentice
BBC1, 8pm

Although the main series of The Apprentice steals the limelight, this version, comprising of younger hopefuls, never fails to make for compelling viewing. There's something incredibly satisfying about seeing the next crop of talented business brains getting a platform on which to prove their talents – and also, let's be honest, to see precocious, over-confident youngsters put in their place. There's plenty of drama in this week's challenge as Alan Sugar calls the two teams to the home of the English National Opera, the London Coliseum, where he sets them a daunting task. They are sent into London with a list of 10 theatrical props that they must find.

Hebburn

BBC2, 10pm

Once we'd got over the initial confusion of Jim Moir and Vic Reeves being one and the same person, this sitcom has proved to be a real winner. This week, Jack, who thought he'd escaped journalism when it looked like his book about Gazza was going to be bestseller, starts his new job as the editor of the Hebburn Advertiser.



Children in Need 2012, Friday, BBC1, 7.30pm

Friday

Children in Need 2012
BBC1, 7.30pm

Arguably the biggest and most difficult live TV event of the year is this charity telethon. However, one man who seems to thrive on such occasions is veteran presenter Terry Wogan, who this time around will be joined by co-hosts Tess Daly and Fearne Cotton. They'll be introducing performances from the likes of One Direction, Susan Boyle and Girls Aloud, while Britain's Got Talent winner Pudsey the dog joins Pudsey Bear for an unforgettable moment. Appearing in a Strictly Come Dancing special are Ann Widdecombe and Russell Grant, and there's a chance to see a prequel to the Doctor Who Christmas special, starring Matt Smith.

Attenborough: 60 Years in the Wild
BBC2, 9pm

It's amazing to think that all David Attenborough's accomplishments have been achieved by just one person. His career spans a lifetime, which is a notion that's made all the more surprising when you look at many of today's flash-in-the-pan celebs. There's no doubt that he's one of the greatest broadcasters of all time, and even today at the age of 86 he's still making must-see programmes. In this new three-part, Attenborough reflects upon his celebrated TV career, charting the changes in the natural world and in peoples' understanding of the planet, as well as focusing on the developments in wildlife film-making. In the first episode, he looks back on some of the incredible animal encounters which have punctuated his career.

Stourbridge Crematorium

Remembrance service

Sunday 2 December 2012, 11am and 3pm

This service is particularly appropriate where the funeral of a relative or friend has taken place at the crematorium, however, everyone is welcome.

Due to high demand, admission is by ticket only.

Tickets are available by calling 01384 813985 or visiting the crematorium on Wednesday 14 November after 10.30am.

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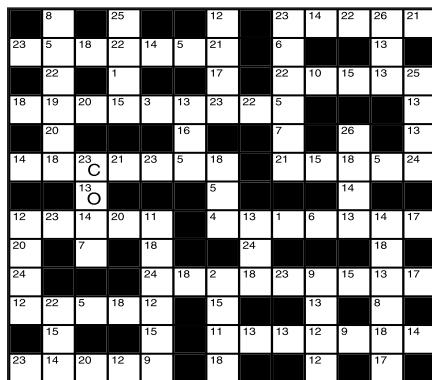
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What's On!**Brain Gym**

No.194

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

E	Z	S	U	R	M	F	K	B	A	H	W	L
X	I	S	J	D	Y	N	Q	P	V	T	O	

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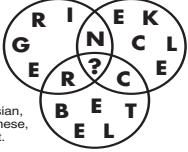
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ALL YOUR PUZZLE NEEDS**IN ONE HANDY APP!****Circlegram**

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

The letter represented by the question mark is S. Persian snowshoe, siamese, all breeds of cat.

**ALL YOUR PUZZLE
NEEDS IN ONE
HANDY APP!****Double Crossword**

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:**Across**

- Book a strong man (5)
- One way to succeed (7)
- A way of putting things, just in case (7)
- Quarrelsome oarsman? (5)
- Such a fight will be close (4-2-4)
- Having the support of the board though too old to work (2,3,5)
- A temple ornament? (5)
- One who's made a pretence a reality, apparently! (7)
- She has to call back - at the paint shop presumably (7)
- Material found in many London shops (5)

Down

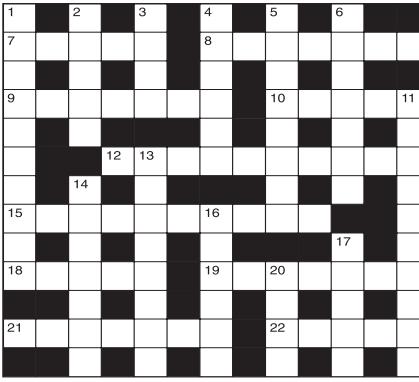
- Openly enjoying a stay in the country? (7,3)
- Not busy with coal (5)
- Wine that sparkles as it rises (4)
- Given hot tips at the barber's? (6)
- Partly burn a fuel that draws well (8)
- It gives lift for a flier over an obstacle (4-3)
- A fishy diversion (3,7)
- Agreeable variety of bean meal (8)
- Cooked me instead! (7)
- Hunch about a piece of venison (6)
- It helps to provide a cheap pleasant snack (5)
- Vessels of the Royal Navy in America (4)

Quick Clues:**Across**

- Regional (5)
- Junior (7)
- Wealthy (7)
- Entrances (5)
- Gambler (10)
- Inverted (6-4)
- Attire (5)
- Portion (7)
- Secret (7)
- Angry (5)

Down

- Tracking dog (10)
- Happen (5)
- Otherwise (4)
- Occult (6)
- One-storey house (8)
- Stir (7)
- Make firmer (10)
- Statue base (8)
- Austere (7)
- Disperse (6)
- Lawful (5)
- Stern (4)



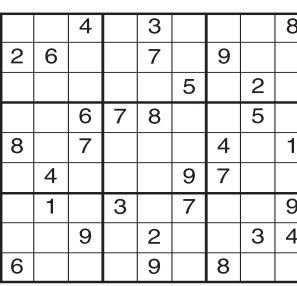
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Assignees; 8 Use; 9 Fingerprint; 11 Organic; 12 Exact; 13 Estate; 15 Editor; 17 Spurn; 18 Inspid; 20 Sounding out; 22 Hoe; 23 Endowment. Down: 2 Ski; 3 Green; 4 Expect; 5 Stipend; 6 Puts a stop to; 7 Dead tired; 10 Night nurses; 11 Oversight; 14 Tonsure; 16 Minded; 19 Sinew; 21 Urn. **QUICK** - Across: 1 Unscathed; 8 Eye; 9 Encouraging; 11 Collect; 12 Drain; 13 Equity; 15 Regale; 17 Grasps; 18 Egotist; 20 Inconstancy; 22 Ado; 23 Lingering. Down: 2 Nun; 3 Acute; 4 Hearty; 5 Dwindle; 6 Degradation; 7 Dependent; 10 Calculation; 11 Clergyman; 14 Typical; 16 Pennon; 19 Oute; 21 Can.

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

6	5	1	4	9	2	3	7	8
2	7	1	5	3	8	9	4	6
3	8	9	6	4	7	5	2	1
4	6	3	9	1	5	2	8	7
5	7	4	2	8	6	3	1	9
6	2	5	7	6	3	1	9	4
1	9	8	4	2	6	7	3	5
7	4	2	3	5	1	8	6	9
5	3	6	8	7	9	4	1	2



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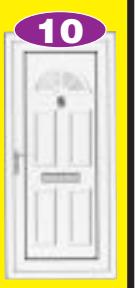
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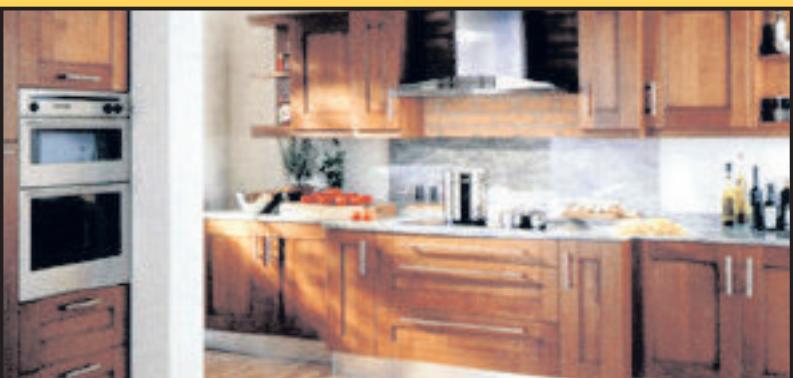
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Official launch for two new stylish showhomes

EXCITEMENT is building ahead of the official opening on Saturday of two stylish showhomes at Himley View, Taylor Wimpey's sought-after development in Tansey Green, West Midlands.

Property-seekers can be among the first to view the fabulous three-bedroom 'Hayford' and four-bedroom 'Ashwell' showhomes.

These exceptional properties are being exquisitely finished in the very latest interior styles to give prospective purchasers a chance to experience the wonderful lifestyle opportunities available with the new homes at Himley View.

Elaine Taylor, regional sales and marketing director for Taylor Wimpey, says: "Our expert interior designers are currently putting the final touches to these superb properties to present visitors with a glimpse at what can be achieved with a typical Taylor Wimpey home at this popular development."

"The exact details of how these wonderful properties will look are being kept under wraps, but we can

guarantee that visitors attending the launch are in for a treat!"

Two-bedroom homes are currently on sale at Himley View from as little as £104,995, three-bedroom properties from just £179,995 and four-bedroom homes from only £224,995.

All homes at Himley View are completed to a high standard specification, including energy efficient central heating, double glazing and a fitted kitchen with integrated oven, hob and hood.

Taylor Wimpey has a range of helpful homebuyer incentives available with properties at the development, including help with deposits for first-time buyers and assistance for those with a property to sell. Incentives can be tailored to individual requirements and further details are available from the sales executive.

Alongside the new homes, Himley View will feature acres of open space.

The development benefits from a convenient location close to the amenities of Kingswinford and Gornal Wood, and lies just a short distance from the wide range of facilities in the thriving town of



An artist's impression of the Hayford home-style at Himley View

Dudley, and the Merry Hill Shopping Centre, home to over 200 stores, places to eat and leisure and entertainment venues.

For commuters, the A461, A459 and M5 are all within easy reach while public transport connections provide convenient links to Birmingham, Wolverhampton and throughout the Midlands.

Visitors should come along to the launch event on Saturday between 10am and 5pm.

Alternatively, the sales and marketing suite, located off Tansey Green Road, Tansey Green is open during the same hours from Thursday to Monday and the sales Executive can be contacted on 0845 239 0107.



Views towards Shropshire hills are available



The home is well-presented throughout

Detached in Sedgley is on the market for £375,000

A TRADITIONAL-style detached house in a sought after suburb of Sedgley is on the market priced at £375,000.

The property in Sandfields Road, which has been extended and considerably improved, occupies a large plot with views towards the Shropshire Hills to the rear.

The beautifully presented home offers excellent family accommodation with a high standard of decoration and quality fittings throughout, and which agents say needs a personal inspection to be fully appreciated.

On the ground floor is a cloakroom with low level WC and wash hand basin, while through lounge - 15ft 9in by 11ft 8in - has a Minster style fireplace with marble insert and gas living flame coal effect fire.

The dining room is 11ft 5in by 10ft 11in, and the breakfast kitchen measuring 20ft 3in by

10ft has been comprehensively refitted with a range of units including base cupboards, inset one and a half bowl acrylic sink, with mixer taps, drawer unit, corner display unit, integrated dishwasher, refrigerator and freezer, cooker housing double oven and halogen hob, cooker hood, wall cupboards and wine rack with a door to the garage which is currently used as a utility/storage room with a range of base cupboards, work surfaces and larder unit.

On the first floor there are four bedrooms and a bathroom with free standing roll edge bath, separate shower cubicle, pedestal wash hand basin and WC.

Outside is a lawned front garden with shrub borders and low stone block walling and a tarmac driveway providing ample of road parking.

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No upward chain
In need of updating and improvement
Lounge diner kitchen and side veranda
2 bedrooms, bathroom and wc on first floor
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3 bedroom detached family home
No upward chain
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Garage & driveway
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£164,950 Ref: D1236



Immaculate 3 bed home with driveway
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Lounge to front with feature fireplace
Refitted bathroom - white suite
Rear garden having southerly aspect
UPVC double glazing & gas central heating
£159,950 Ref: D1252



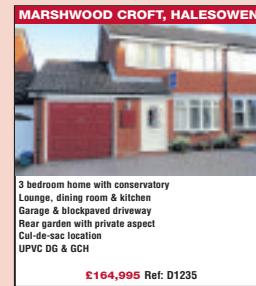
Superb 3 bedroom semi-detached home
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Extended 4 bed semi
Large Kitchen with dining room off
Lounge & separate sitting room
4 beds, shower room & 2nd WC
Parking to front & enclosed rear garden
UPVC DBB, GCH & alarm
£179,950 Ref: D1230



Extended & immaculate 3 bed home
2 receptions, breakfast kitchen & utility
Conservatory & refitted d/s shower room
Refitted u/s bathroom with roll top bath
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3 bedroom home with conservatory
Lounge, dining room & kitchen
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Set Within A Delightful Cul-De-Sac And On A Generous Corner Position. This Large Four Bed Detached House Close To The Canals. This Double Fronted Home Comes Unfurnished. With A Large And Light Lounge With Separate Dining Area, Large Fitted Kitchen, Utility Room, Two Bedrooms With Fitted Wardrobes, 2 Without Wardrobes, Large Bathrooms With Shower, En-Suite Shower Room, Downstairs WC, Detached Garage.

£795 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, BEARMORE ROAD

An Unfurnished Four Bedroom Modern Well Presented Three Storey Mid Terraced Town House comprising of: Three Double Bedrooms, all with Large Fitted Wardrobes, Master With En-Suite Shower Room, Fourth Single Bedroom/Study, Lounge with Patio Doors to Garden, Large Fitted Kitchen with Oven Hob, Downstairs WC, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazed Throughout. Close to Railway Links. Available Mid November.

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HALESOWEN, SANDERSON PLACE

Luxury Living In Hayley Green A superb ground floor apartment available immediately. Offering Spacious Accommodation including Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen, Double Glazed Balcony, Two Double Bedrooms, Master with En-Suite, Further Well Appointed Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing and Allocated Parking.

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HALESOWEN, ALBERT ROAD

An immaculately presented detached house within minutes of Halesowen, in a well sought after location, comprising of: Three Bedrooms, Large Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Utility Room, Downstairs WC, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Parking to the Front, Detached Garage at Rear, Front and Rear Gardens. A Property Not to Be Missed.

£600 PCM



STOURBRIDGE, WHEELER STREET

A traditional three bedroom mid terraced property in a popular residential area and comprising of: Front Reception Room with Original Marble Fireplace, Back Reception Room, Fitted Kitchen, Downstairs Shower with Shower, Two Large Bedrooms and One Large Single. Lovely Rear Garden, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing. On Road Parking. Available immediately.

£595 PCM



ROWLEY REGIS, UPLANDS AVENUE

A Part Furnished To Suit Traditional Semi-Detached House. Close To Local Shops, Train Station And M5 J2. Briefly Comprising: Three Bedrooms, Through Lounge/Dining Room With Feature Fireplaces, Fitted Kitchen With Appliances, House Bathroom With Shower, Benefits Include Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Garage And driveway parking, Rear Gardens.

£595 PCM



HALESOWEN, UPPER ASHLEY STREET

Ideally Located In Blackheath For Local Shops, Buses To Halesowen And Birmingham. And A Few Minutes Drive From Rowley Regis Train Station. Is This Unfurnished Mid Terraced Property With Parking For 2 Cars, Two Double Bedrooms And One Single Bedroom, Large Fitted Kitchen/Dining Area, Spacious Lounge, Modern Bathroom With Shower, Small Rear Garden, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating.

£550 PCM



HALESOWEN, BRETT YOUNG CLOSE

An Impressive Ground Floor Apartment Within Walking Distance To Halesowen Town Centre. With Great Bus Links To Birmingham. Briefly Comprising Of: Two Bedrooms - 1 Double And 1 Single, Spacious Lounge, Modern Kitchen And Separate Dining Area, Modern Bathroom With Shower, Allocating Parking. Not To Be Missed!

£550 PCM



HALESOWEN, WRIGHT STREET

An unfurnished end terraced house, close to town centre and Tenterfields Primary School, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Cosy Living Room, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom With Shower, Rear Garden, On Road Parking. Available the Beginning of November

£525 PCM



HALESOWEN, CHERRY STREET

An Unfurnished Mid Terraced Property. Close To Local Amenities, Briefly Comprising Of: 2 Double Bedrooms, 2 Reception Rooms, Gas Central Heating, Part Double Glazing, Nic Nac Size Lounge, Fitted Dining Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, House Bathroom With Shower, Garage And driveway parking, Front And Rear Gardens

£525 PCM



STOURBRIDGE, SANDON ROAD

An Unfurnished Semi Detached House Situated On A Quiet Cul-De-Sac Comprising Of: Gas Central Heating, Part Double Glazing, Nic Nac Size Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Downstairs Bathroom With Shower, Rear Garden, On Road Parking, Garage And driveway parking, Front And Rear Gardens

£525 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, NEW POOL ROAD

Currently Undergoing A Full Refurbishment With A New Kitchen, New Bathroom, New Carpets, New Decoration. Is This End Terraced Property, Located Within A Few Minutes Walk Of Cradley Heath Train Station And 5 Minutes Drive From Cradley Heath Town Centre. Comprising Of: Two Good Sized Bedrooms, Large Lounge With Dining Area, New Kitchen, New Bathroom With Separate Toilet. A Property Not To Be Missed!

£525 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, LUANNE CLOSE

Situated In This Popular Residential Area, Is This Second Floor Apartment, Which Overlooks The Canal And Has Its Own Balcony. Comprising Of: Two Bedrooms, Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom With Shower, Access To Balcony From The Master Bedroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Allocated Parking. Well Worth An Inspection

£525 PCM



HALESOWEN, TENTERFIELDS

An exceptional opportunity to rent this room in a shared house, with no bills to pay at all, cleaning done for you, towels and tea and coffee supplied for each room. Also the use of free WiFi, use of the lounge, kitchen, office room. All rooms have their own ensuite facilities. Well worth a viewing, and ideal for a single person.

£500 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, LUANNE CLOSE

This lovely part furnished second floor apartment, with views over the canal and on a popular development, comprising of: Two Bedrooms, One With Wardrobes, Lounge With Brown 'L' Shaped Sofa, Fitted Kitchen With Small Fridge, Gas Central Heating, Bathroom With Shower, Allocated Parking, Communal Gardens

£495 PCM



HALESOWEN, HARDEN COURT

Situated In Popular Residential Area Of Halesowen, With Easy Access To Buses To The Town. Is This Part Furnished First Floor Apartment Comprising Of: Two Bedrooms, Lounge, Double Glazing, Fitted Kitchen, Bathrooms With Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Garage Parking, Communal Gardens

£495 PCM



HALESOWEN, MANOR LANE

A furnished flat above shop, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Living Room, Large Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Shower Room, Secure Parking

£440 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, ELBOW STREET

Situated In A Quiet Location, Within Walking Distance To Old Hill Town And Local Train Station Is This Unfurnished First Floor Flat, Comprising Of: Electric Storage Heating, Large Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, One Double Bedroom, Bathroom With Shower, Communal Gardens, Allocated Parking.

£435 PCM



ROWLEY REGIS, WINCHESTER CLOSE

A very well presented, unfurnished first floor apartment, close to the M5 J2, briefly comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Fitted Kitchen, Lounge, Double Glazing, Bathroom With Shower, Parking Space and Parking Area For Visitors, Communal Gardens

£425 PCM



OLDBURY, CAUSEWAY GREEN ROAD

This large, split level flat above shops, within walking distance to bus links and close to J2 of the M5, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Spacious Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom With Shower, Garage To Rear, Unfurnished £400 for the 1st 6 months and £425 after

£400 PCM

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Ideal for the extended family, this large detached property is on the market at 329 Warstones Road

A large detached house which has six bedrooms

A SIX-BEDROOM property, designed to benefit modern day family living and with a detached garage and large garden is on the market based on offers around £499,950.

The property – 329 Warstones Road, Lloyd Hill, near Lower Penn – is just under three miles from Wolverhampton city centre.

Outside a block paved double width driveway provides ample parking, access to the garden and the detached garage.

The development comprising these three new homes is now complete, with two fronting the A449 Penn Road and plot 1 located from a private shared access of Warstones Road and leading onto a private drive.

The location is within easy walking distance of a good range of shopping facilities, eateries and regular public transport services.

Call estate agent Berriman Eaton on 01902 326366 for further details.

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Your essential guide to the world of motoring compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

You describe the new BMW X1 baby

UP until a few years ago we bought a car, we didn't buy a crossover, an SUV or a people carrier, we bought a car, but times change and so do vehicle descriptions and BMW are one of the experts in

this badging exercise.

They have for example an x5, x3 and they have now the x1 which I suppose you should describe as the baby in the range. It sits within the SUV market place and I find it quite an attractive vehicle, I thought initially it might be an overgrown 1 Series but I was mistaken because the x1 without doubt is quite a handsome performer with off-road capabilities as in my particular derivative, the 2-litre x Drive version.

The x1

between 141 bhp up to a very quick 215 bhp. My particular 2-litre derivative proved to be an admirable performer driving through a six speed gearbox, there was never an opportunity to try out the off-road capabilities as I had it for a week in wonderful unusual sunny weather.

Four-wheel drive is always reassuring, you do not need to buy one just because you need to adventure into muddy fields for a car boot, gymkhana or pulling your trailer, it is a reassuring drive when the weather conditions are poor for example in a heavy storm and the roads are awash.

I particularly like the excellent handling dynamics of the vehicle albeit on initial impressions, I found as did my wife, the steering to be seriously on the heavy side especially at slow speed around town.

The weighting changed as the pace increased but it certainly was a muscle building exercise.

It had excellent road holding qualities and considering the vehicle has a slightly higher stance there was very little body roll and certainly I felt the handling eclipsed some of the other vehicles within the market place.

The disc brakes all around were always reassuring and brought the car to a smooth, steady halt no matter what was required from them. Occupants in the vehicle will be pleased with the amount of interior space both shoulder and headroom and luggage space is reasonably generous. Considering the vehicle is in theory a pseudo off-roader there was none of the normal road noise that you associate with the more chunky tyres some manufacturers fit, to enable you to venture off the tarmac roads, it was a quiet refined vehicle at all times.

These familiar with BMW's will automatically feel at home within the cabin, the intuitive i drive system has now been honed and whilst it does take some getting used to once you have mastered the facilities it becomes simplicity itself, but be prepared if this is your vehicle sit down with the handbook and learn all the various little idiosyncrasies that this system has.

Impressed

The Blue Tooth and the auxiliary USB sockets were simplicity and I was quite impressed with the level of trim within the vehicle, having said that at this sort of pricing juncture and BMW's being the quality brand we expect not to be disappointed with cheap plastics within your vehicle.

Since my test drive BMW have announced a face lift x1 due to arrive in winter 2012, it is a facelift so don't expect to see huge differentials within the new vehicle over the vehicle

that it is replacing.

A new 8-speed automatic gearbox is going to be included and that is a first for me.

The engines will be slightly modified but it will still be diesels only for the UK although in some other countries a petrol option will be available.

The CO2 emissions as you would expect are going to be lowered and the power aspects are increased on certain derivatives. This could be an excellent time to visit the BMW garage to see the outrun of the current level of x1's because as we know discounts are as rare as teeth on aBMW.

My particular derivative as with a lot of vehicles was loaded to the gunnels with extras adding an eye watering £9,465 in to the price.

For example £1,960 for the navigation system really is in my view taking the mickey, that having been said the 18" wheels were £740, other expensive additions were £875 for electric front seats and driver memory and a quite healthy £435 extra for enhanced Blue Tooth connectivity.

BMW x1 is available priced between £26,095 and £33,170.

Do not forget though that a feature with all BMW's is you do need to get the specification right because when you come to sell the x1 you will be severely penalised if you haven't ensured that you vehicle had the essentials pieces of equipment that make a BMW more



The BMW X1 is their new baby

range is only available currently with 2-litre diesel engines, the power outputs vary

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Make sure that you get your vehicle prepared for the difficult conditions as winter approaches



Make maintenance of your car a priority

Don't cut corners on road safety this winter

AS UK motorists continue to cut corners on car maintenance due to the economic pinch, GEM Motoring Assist, road safety organisation and breakdown cover company, is launching its winter driving campaign to increase awareness of the potential dangers on the roads, particularly as temperatures start to drop and conditions worsen across the country.

According to GEM, it is never too early to get your vehicle fully prepared for the wintry weather and the company is continuing to offer practical advice via its free winter driving leaflet.

Packed full of advice and checklists, the leaflet is a useful resource for motorists and aims to help prevent drivers from being a victim of a serious accident or hazardous breakdown situation during the winter period.

Last year, the company also launched a winter driving video, providing easy online access to its winter driving advice.

Featuring visual scenes on winter driving, the four-minute video highlights how dramatically driving dynamics change as the conditions worsen.

The video demonstrates how much more time and space should be allowed when driving in wintry conditions, as stopping distances increase tenfold and the slightest oversteering or braking can cause complete loss of control.

GEM chief executive, David Williams MBE, says: "Each year, we work hard to provide crucial information and advice to keep drivers safe on the roads. Carrying out the necessary checks ahead of the winter weather, and being properly prepared, could make all the difference between a safe journey and one that could potentially end in disaster."

"We know that tighter budgets and rocketing fuel costs have had a negative impact on motorists' car maintenance habits, as many see it as a low priority in these tough times, however, this lack of care will undoubtedly make cars less reliable, and driving an unsafe vehicle puts drivers, passengers, and other road users in unnecessary danger."

"Not only is it important for drivers to be ready for winter but they must also be aware of the changes in driving dynamics, which is why we created the online winter driving video. We hope that the combination of the leaflet and video will give motorists all the advice they need for a safe winter on the roads," David concludes.

GEM's winter driving checklist:

1. Check that your vehicle is properly maintained and fully serviced.
 2. Ensure tyres have plenty of tread depth, are in good condition, and correctly inflated (don't forget the spare).
 3. Radiators must contain anti-freeze and also check that the cooling system is free from leaks.
 4. Batteries must be in good condition (many garages/battery suppliers will carry out this check free-of-charge).
 5. Ensure windscreen wipers and washers are working effectively.
 6. Washer bottles must be full and contain anti-freezing/cleaning additive.
 7. Clean all lights and check they are all working properly.
 8. All windows and mirrors must be clean and clear from snow and ice before driving.
 9. Keep fluorescent hi visibility jackets in the car, in case of a breakdown.
 10. Store extra clothes or blankets in the vehicle, in case of a breakdown.
- Download and print a free copy of the GEM Motoring Assist 'Winter driving' leaflet at motoringassist.com/leaflets or call 01342 825676 for a hard copy. View the GEM 'Winter driving' video at motoringassist.com/motoring-advice/videos.

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Excellent show sees Halas get second win

Ladies League Halas Ladies 4 Rugby Town Ladies 0

HALAS turned in an excellent performance to claim a second successive win.

Tash Berry hit a first-half brace to give Halas the lead at the break. Tracey Haycock and Erin Hickin added second-half strikes.

Girls League

Halas Hawks U17 Girls 4

Stourbridge U17 Girls 6

Halas went three down in the first 20 minutes but Kate Drew's double before half-time put them back in it.

It was all square just after the restart, but, on a heavy pitch, only a Liz McAleman goal replied to three visitors' strikes. Lara Yarnall was player of the match.

Boys League

Penn Colts U9 0

Halas Hawks U9 North 3

Thomas Galligan scored his first Halas goal early on. Alex Tierney scored from close in and man of the match Callum Deeming completed the scoring for a first win of the season.

Halas Hawks U9 East 0

Kingsley Olympic East 1

The hosts had all the first-half play but failed to take chances and were made to pay as Kingsley broke to win and convert a penalty.

Halas continued to press in the second period, but could not find a way through. Man of the Match went to Brandon Hale.

Forest Falcons U10 West 0

Halas Hawks U10 West 4

The under-10 West side produced their best performance of the season. They scored through Jayke Adams, Altrin Aleshiqi and a brace from Harvey Brookes.

Worsley Wasps U11 1

Halas Hawks U11 West 7

Halas maintained their fine start to the season.

Sam Bulmer scored twice and there were single strikes from Casey Collins, Joshua Wyman, Matthew Steed, man of the match Cameron Russell and Burhan Siddiqi.

West Hagley South U14 1

Halas Hawks U14 6

The under-14s progressed to the next round of the Stourbridge Charity Cup with a convincing win against West Hagley.

Halas were two up at half-time through Harry Clements and Cameron Milne. The second half saw the visitors score four more from Warren Hale, Ben Clements and Shane Billingham with a brace. Man of the match went to goalkeeper Daniel Johnson.

They played better against both City and

Surprise defeat after plans disrupted

Stratford 2 Old Halesonians 1

OLD HALESONIANS firsts' good run ended in a surprise defeat.

The hosts disrupted their game plan, and the visitors struggled to break through a strong defence.

Hales started stronger and continued their record of scoring first in every game this season, after sustained pressure.

Josh Randhawa passed to Tom Durnford, who rounded a defender and fired home. Hales kept pressuring Stratford, but chances were few as the hosts packed the 'D'.

Stratford tried to hit Hales on the break, throwing several aerial

Old Halesonians Hockey Club

passes, but Old Hales went into the break 1-0 up.

The game was turned on its head early in the second half.

An uncharacteristic mistake by the Hales defence led to Stratford stealing an equaliser, with an easy strike past the helpless Hales keeper Alex Fraser.

Some efficient marking and pressure from the visitors made it a struggle for Old Halesonians as they failed to find the net.

With 10 minutes remaining,

Stratford stole all three points in controversial fashion. A high ball was played into the 'D', where the Stratford centre-forward deflected it in the air from close range into the goal.

Despite protests from the visitors that the pass was dangerous, the umpires decided that the goal would stand.

Hales then dominated possession, but were unable to turn it into clear chances and slipped to third in the table.

Stone Ladies 7 Old Halesonians 1

Old Hales ladies firsts suffered defeat in the Tunnicliffe League, as they took a week's break from the Worcestershire League.

Hales gave a positive first-half performance but Stone dominated the second half as they hit seven past the Hales.

The visitors only consolation was from in-form youngster Laura Bird who found the net for Hales' only goal of the game.

Old Halesonians 0 Finchfield 0

Old Halesonians seconds were unfortunate not to grab all three points against a lacklustre Finch-

field side and instead had to settle for a point. Old Hales managed to put previous performances behind them and started well.

The home side moved the ball at pace but were unable to penetrate the resilient Finchfield defence.

Old Halesonians 1 Worcester 1

The thirds, despite going 1-0 down, were able to fight back and grab an equaliser when captain Deck Glaze found the experienced Damian Shackleton, who slotted home to share the points.

Results: Bourneville 0 Old Hales fourths 10, Olton & West Warwick 4 Old Hales fifth 2, Old Hales Badgers 1 Bourneville 3.

Rangers rocked as Price is right

Wednesfield 3

Black Country Rangers 1

WEST MIDLANDS Premier leaders Black Country Rangers suffered a surprise defeat.

Wednesfield's young keeper Sam Arnold had to be alert to keep out a fierce 20-yard shot from Alex Hammond and then pushed a Liam Hughes shot onto the post.

On 35 minutes Wednesfield rocked the visitors by taking the lead.

Kieron Whittaker beat two players before his shot was blocked, but Ben Sanderson latched onto the loose ball and beat four players in the space of a few yards before lashing home his shot.

On the stroke of half-time Wednesfield made it 2-0. Wayne Price fastened onto a Thomas Horton pass to go on and score.

Hammond brought Rangers back into it with a 58th-minute goal to round off a good move.

But in the final minute Josh Carvel cleared a corner up to Whittaker, who ran the ball into the unguarded net to clinch the win for his side.

Gez gets going with first goal

Tividale 2 Loughborough Univ 0

TIVIDALE leap-frogged talented Loughborough University in the Midland Alliance after an emphatic win at the Beeches.

The home side played some purposeful football against a defence that held together well despite being twisted and turned by Alundo Lewis, who turned in his best performance after recently joining the club.

He went the closest to scoring for Tividale before the visitors began to enjoy their best spell of the game, which began with a stinging effort from Ebb Nelson-Add.

He then lost out twice when one-to-one to Tividale keeper Tim Beech.

The deadlock was broken in the 36th when Gez Holland sent a free-kick over the wall and into the net.

In the second half Richard Taylor should have scored from a corner but his header went just over the bar.

A minute later Tividale doubled their lead through a superb goal by the dangerous Kyle Brady.

Just a routine victory for rocketing Albion

Albion 2 Southampton 0

BONFIRE NIGHT saw Albion continue their rocketing rise up the Premier League table.

Peter Odemwingie scored the goals and Youssouf Mulumbu ran the show as the Baggies moved to fifth with that rarest of commodities – a routine Premier League success, writes Steve Madley.

The pair led the way for Steve Clarke's side to remind The Hawthorns head coach just what he will be deprived of for a month should both depart for the Africa Cup of Nations.

But such worries are for another day. For the time being, Baggies supporters can simply revel in a wonderful start to a season that keeps getting better and better and could yet see them a long way towards safety before the pair depart for South Africa in January.

They survived a couple of Southampton scares as they ended a long Monday night huddle to keep pace with the leading sides a quarter of the way through the campaign.

Yet their victory over the Saints was among the most comfortable they have ever enjoyed in the Premier League as Clarke's men offered further evidence of their elevated position in the top-flight food chain.

Packing

There was a time not so long ago when every Premier League point Albion collected required maximum output from every area of their team. Such has been the progress made at The Hawthorns in recent years, the Baggies can now beat certain sides at 80 or 90 per cent efficiency.

Struggling Southampton are one such outfit and Nigel Adkins' limited team were sent packing by an Odemwingie brace and an Albion performance more than competent enough to make the Nigerian's goals count. In truth, Clarke's men rarely hit the attacking heights of their previous matches against Manchester City and Newcastle.

They played better against both City and



Peter Odemwingie celebrates with Youssouf Mulumbu and Billy Jones



Peter Odemwingie tries a shot at Southampton's goal

the Magpies and lost. But while Bonfire Night lacked the same fireworks, it crucially delivered the points needed.

And with Mulumbu impervious in the heart of midfield, surrounded by countless displays of solidity from confident colleagues, Clarke's men were excellent value for their victory against a Saints side who must have reminded the Hawthorns of the defensive naivety they became accustomed to from their own side under Tony Mowbray.

Their nerves were evident in just the second minute as Maya Yoshida slipped and handed cheap possession to Odemwingie, who fed the galloping Shane Long. But, as the Irishman bore down on goal, Jose Fonte slid in to make a crucial saving challenge.

The Saints were unhappy with a badly mistimed challenge from Billy Jones as his studs made contact with the lower back of Adam Lallana. The Baggies man escaped with

a yellow card and a stern warning from referee Mark Halsey.

Ben Foster had to make a routine save from Rickie Lambert's angled drive but Albion continued to make the running and should have led on 20 minutes when Zoltan Gera spurned a glorious chance. He arrived unmarked six yards from goal to meet Odemwingie's cross-shot but side-footed over the bar.

Both teams might have broken the deadlock on the half-hour when Rickie Lambert sent a free header from a right-wing cross at Foster, who bowled it out quickly to spark a piercing counter-offensive. Odemwingie cut inside and let fly with a 20-yard shot that flashed just wide.

His insistence on trying his luck from distance was frustrating the home crowd but it paid off handsomely nine minutes before half-time as the visitors' painfully flimsy defence was exploited again. This time they gave

Mulumbu time and space on the corner of the box to look up, assess his options and square for Odemwingie, whose 20-yard effort hit Yoshida and beat keeper Paulo Gazzaniga.

The Saints cried foul over Odemwingie's apparent handball in the build-up, but they missed several chances to stop the attack.

Albion should have lost the lead five minutes after the restart when a fortuitous ricochet handed Lambert a superb chance but he crashed a shot against Foster's crossbar with the home keeper beaten.

Albion crushed Saints' spirit on the hour-mark as Odemwingie bagged his second goal.

The visitors' defending was dreadful as they allowed Long to race onto Liam Ridgewell's rudimentary clearance. From there, however, Albion's quality took over. Long delivered a brilliant left-wing cross into the run of Odemwingie, who charged away from Daniel Fox and stooped to head home.

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Improved showing taking on top team

Birmingham Barbarians 0
St Leonards 24

BIRMINGHAM Barbarians firsts put in a vastly improved performance, after last week's humiliation at Essington.

They pushed table-toppers St Leonards all the way before losing out.

Despite the scoreline, the match was in the balance for 70 minutes with just a single converted try by the visitors proving the difference between the sides.

Three tries late on were cruel on the Barbarians who fought valiantly.

The backs, well-marshalled by Dave Wilson, soaked up break after break with ex-Colts winged Luke Todd and Connor Francis contributing superbly to the defensive effort. The hosts had a clutch of excellent chances to score and had two tries disallowed.

The Barbarians second XV put in a spirited showing against Aston Old Edwar-dians in a 40-15 defeat.

No.8 Ben Gilbert crossed the whitewash after good work by the pack and James Shaylor notched a stunning try to keep the game alive.

Anyone interested in taking up rugby union is welcome at the Perry Barr-based club.

Training takes place every Tuesday evening at the Moor Lane Sports Centre. For more details, visit www.bhambarbarians.co.uk

World's best at Ballroom

SOME of the world's best darts players are to perform at a non-television event in Birmingham next month.

They include world No.3 James Wade, who recently reached the final of the Betfair World Matchplay, and five-time world champion Raymond van Barneveld.

The inaugural eight-man Carlsberg Masters will take place at The Birmingham Ballroom on Friday, December 7.

Wade and van Barneveld will be joined by Australian ace Simon Whitlock, former world champion Mark Webster and the Dutch duo Vincent van der Voort and Michael van Gerwen.

Former PDC under-21 world champion Arron Monks will also be on show, alongside two local qualifiers. For tickets, call 0121 320 2820 or book online via www.theticketsellers.co.uk

Stars gathering in honour of Stiliyan Petrov

FOOTBALLING stars from across the country are set to descend on Halesowen on Sunday, November 18 for a charity match in honour of Aston Villa captain Stiliyan Petrov.

Halesowen Town will welcome the likes of former Villain and Manchester City star Gareth Barry, who is coming to watch a Stan Petrov Select XI play an Aston Villa legends side.

Villa captain Petrov is recovering from leukaemia and a host of charity events are being held to raise money for the cancer research, including Pedal for Petrov bike ride.

Halesowen Town

England midfielder Barry, who is still in regular contact with Petrov, said: "We are all great friends of Stan's and what the lads are doing is great as it boosts the Pedal for Petrov and Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research appeal."

"I am looking forward to watching the game and it should be an entertaining day out, not just for Villa fans but football fans in general."

The Petrov XI are being sponsored for the match by security firm Protection Services International, which employs Lee Hendrie

as a consultant. PSI are providing the team with kit while Harborne-based designer menswear store Resonate are sponsoring the match balls.

A match day raffle and auction of football memorabilia will also be held to boost the fund.

Cathy Gilman, chief executive at Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research, said: "We are so grateful that the boys are supporting our life-saving work."

"The valuable funds they are raising will help us find better treatments and cures for patients with blood cancers including leukaemia, lymphoma and myeloma."

Villa fan Dean Dodds, who is organising the match, said support had come from a host of sources including past and present Villa stars, Birmingham-born players such as Seth Johnson and former manager Ron Atkinson.

Halesowen Town have donated the use of the ground for free. The day is aimed at football fans and families alike and will feature a pig roast and bar. Petrov will try to attend should he feel well enough on the day.

The match kicks off at 1.30pm at The Grove in Old Hawne Lane and admission is £5 for adults and £2.50 for children. Gates open from noon.

Battling Yeltz still cannot take win

King's Lynn 3
Halesowen Town 2

HALESOWEN are now winless in six games after this defeat in Norfolk.

The Yeltz were again without four players through injury and were also minus Sam Brooks, who has left the club.

But they fought hard against their high-flying opponents, only a goal in the dying minutes denying them a point from this Evo-Stik Southern Premier affair.

Steve Spriggs gave King's Lynn the lead on 27 minutes when he was set up by Danny Beaumont and scored on the half-volley.

But Halesowen grabbed an equaliser through Ben Haseley, who scored at the second attempt when his first shot was saved by keeper Danny Gay.

Efforts

It was the Yeltz who looked liked going ahead either side of half-time with efforts from Haseley, Dan Evans and Brendan Kelly all going close.

But the home side took the lead when Beaumont picked up a Russell Dunkley pass and shot home, although keeper Paul Evans managed to get a hand to the ball.

Substitute Mitchell Bottfield equalised for Halesowen eight minutes from time when he found himself unmarked in the box after Haseley set him up.

But another substitute, Jason Turner, won it for King's Lynn just minutes after Haseley had come on.

He controlled the ball from a Dunkley flick and buried a left-foot shot past Evans to make it a long journey home for Halesowen.

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'MALE MAN' READY FOR TITLE PACKAGE

CRADLEY'S punching postman Chris Male has vowed to "deliver" the English title in front of his home fans at Dudley's The Venue.

The Male Man's tackles Josh Warrington over 10 rounds for the vacant featherweight crown tomorrow night with both unbeaten.

The belt has not been contested for six years and Male has seen three previous title fights fall through. But now his big night is nearly here.

by Craig Birch

The 30-year-old has chased his shot for the past 18 months and has been out of the ring for 14 months, through injury and inactivity.

But Male feels he's still fighting fit and ready for the biggest fight of his four-year pro career, which has yielded 11 straight victories.

He said: "I feel the best I have felt, my fitness has just gone through the roof. My speed, sharpness and power are perfectly on schedule."

PROFILE

"I have just got to hold it all now so, on fight night, I will be ready to go. Once the first bell goes, all of that frustration will go away."

"That's where I want to be, it's been a nightmare to get here and that belt has been all I have been thinking about for over 12 months."

"I will be a dangerous man, I have got to go out there and deliver. He's unbeaten, but put me in a pressure position and I will deliver."

"I feel fighters perform at their best when they are challenged and I know nothing less than my best will be good enough on the night."

"I will be at my best and I can't afford to lose this fight, so I will win."

Male twice lined up meetings with Joe Murray for the

English title and was willing to box away from home each time in Newport and Bolton.

The whole bill was called off the first time against Murray last November and, the second time, in February, Male pulled out injured.

After recovering from a torn rotator cuff, a match with Jon Fernandes was booked for last month but was scrapped due to poor ticket sales.

Male said: "It's kind of ironic that the fight has ended up in Dudley, really it has worked out the best for me. It's the biggest fight around here for years."

"If I can bring this English title to Dudley, it would give the whole area a boost. The boxing world might start looking here then."

Male's stable-mate Jamie Ball, both trained by Dudley's Shaun Cooper at Coops Boxing Camp, Brierley Hill, retired this week with a back injury.

Coseley's Ball hung up his gloves while still the Midlands light middleweight champion and the Midlands Area Council's Best Young Boxer for 2011.

Tomorrow's event is a dinner show, but £30 passes can be bought just to watch. The meal tickets are £60. For details, call 01384 453104 or 07964 722736.



Boxer Chris Male says he is ready to deliver the English title at Dudley tomorrow

Lonsdale fight hope for Jason

JASON WELBORN could clinch a crack at newly-crowned British welterweight champion Frankie Gavin with victory at Wolverhampton Civic Hall this month.

Welborn was at ringside at the York Hall, Bethnal Green, to watch Gavin take the belt from Junior Witter – and the Black Country powerhouse hopes to get a shot at the Lonsdale belt next year.

He tops the bill on promoter PJ Rowson's show on Friday, November 30 having boosted his British-title claims by overpowering James Flinn and Scott Haywood with his heavy-handed, non-stop attacks in Midlands Area-title defences.

The decisive way Welborn won what looked like 50-50 fights has convinced manager Errol Johnson the 26-year-old from Rowley Regis is ready to step up to British-title level.

Johnson has already talked to Gavin's handlers about what would be a massive Birmingham v Black Country derby.

Welborn said: "I know it's a fight that people want to see. Ever since Gavin won the title I've had loads of texts from people saying: 'When are you going to fight him?'"

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